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(54) **PROCEDE POUR AUGMENTER LA TENEUR EN HUILE DANS DES VEGETAUX**

(54) **METHODS FOR INCREASING OIL CONTENT IN PLANTS**

(57)

The invention relates to methods for increasing the oil content in plants, preferably in the seeds of plants, by expression of glycerol-3-phosphatidehydrogenases (G3PDH) from yeast, preferably from *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*. The invention also relates to expression constructs for the expression of G3PDH yeast in plants, preferably in the seeds of plants, transgenic plants expressing G3PDH, and to the use of said transgenic plants in the production of foodstuffs, feed, seeds, pharmaceuticals or fine chemicals, especially in the production of oils.



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(54) Titre : PROCÉDE POUR AUGMENTER LA TENEUR EN HUILE DANS DES VÉGÉTAUX
(54) Title: METHODS FOR INCREASING OIL CONTENT IN PLANTS

(57) Abrégé/Abstract:

The invention relates to methods for increasing the oil content in plants, preferably in the seeds of plants, by expression of glycerol-3-phosphatdehydrogenases (G3PDH) from yeast, preferably from *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*. The invention also relates to expression constructs for the expression of G3PDH yeast in plants, preferably in the seeds of plants, transgenic plants expressing G3PDH, and to the use of said transgenic plants in the production of foodstuffs, feed, seeds, pharmaceuticals or fine chemicals, especially in the production of oils.

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(54) Title: METHODS FOR INCREASING OIL CONTENT IN PLANTS

(54) Bezeichnung: VERFAHREN ZUM ERHÖHEN DES ÖLGEHALTES IN PFLANZEN

(57) Abstract: The invention relates to methods for increasing the oil content in plants, preferably in the seeds of plants, by expression of glycerol-3-phosphatdehydrogenases (G3PDH) from yeast, preferably from *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*. The invention also relates to expression constructs for the expression of G3PDH yeast in plants, preferably in the seeds of plants, transgenic plants expressing G3PDH, and to the use of said transgenic plants in the production of foodstuffs, feed, seeds, pharmaceuticals or fine chemicals, especially in the production of oils.

(57) Zusammenfassung: Die Erfindung betrifft Verfahren zum Erhöhen des Ölgehaltes in Pflanzen, bevorzugt in pflanzlichen Samen, durch Expression von Glycerol-3-phosphatdehydrogenasen (G3PDH) aus Hefen, bevorzugt aus *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*. Die Erfindung betrifft ferner Expressionskonstrukte zur Expression von Hefe G3PDH in Pflanzen, bevorzugt in pflanzlichen Samen, transgene Pflanzen exprimierend Hefe G3PDH, sowie die Verwendung von besagter transgener Pflanzen zur Herstellung von Nahrungs-, Futtermitteln, Saatgut, Pharmazeutika oder Feinchemikalien, insbesondere zur Herstellung von Ölen.

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METHODS FOR INCREASING OIL CONTENT IN PLANTS

The invention relates to methods for increasing the oil content in plants, preferably in plant seeds, by expressing yeast glycerol-3-phosphate dehydrogenases (G3PDH), preferably from *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*. The invention furthermore relates to expression constructs for expressing yeast G3PDH in plants, preferably in plant seeds, transgenic plants expressing yeast G3PDH, and to the use of said transgenic plants for the production of food, feeds, seed, pharmaceuticals or fine chemicals, in particular for the production of oils.

- 10 Increasing the oil content in plants and, in particular, in plant seeds is of great interest for traditional and modern plant breeding and in particular for plant biotechnology. Owing to the increasing consumption of vegetable oils for nutrition or industrial applications, possibilities of increasing or modifying vegetable oils are increasingly the subject of current research (for example Töpfer et al. (1995) *Science* 268:681-686). Its aim is in particular increasing the fatty acid content in seed oils.

- 20 The fatty acids which can be obtained from the vegetable oils are also of particular interest. They are employed, for example, as bases for plasticizers, lubricants, surfactants, cosmetics and the like and are employed as valuable bases in the food and feed industries. Thus, for example, it is of particular interest to provide rapeseed oils with fatty acids with medium chain length since these are in demand in particular in the production of surfactants.

- The targeted modulation of plant metabolic pathways by recombinant methods allows the modification of the plant metabolism in an advantageous manner which, when using traditional breeding methods, could only be achieved after a complicated procedure or not at all. Thus, unusual fatty acids, for example specific polyunsaturated fatty acids, are only synthesized in certain plants or not at all in plants and can therefore only be produced by expressing the relevant enzyme in transgenic plants (for example Millar et al. (2000) *Trends Plant Sci* 5:95-101).

- 30 Triacylglycerides and other lipids are synthesized from fatty acids. Fatty acid biosynthesis and triacylglyceride biosynthesis can be considered as separate biosynthetic pathways owing to the compartmentalization, but as a single biosynthetic pathway in view of the end product. Lipid synthesis can be divided into two

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part-mechanisms, one which might be termed "prokaryotic" and another which may be termed "eukaryotic" (Browse et al. (1986) Biochemical J 235:25-31; Ohlrogge & Browse (1995) Plant Cell 7:957-970). The prokaryotic mechanism is localized in the plastids and encompasses the biosynthesis of the free fatty acids which are exported into the cytosol, where they enter the eukaryotic mechanism in the form of fatty acid acyl-CoA esters and are esterified with glycerol-3-phosphate (G3P) to give phosphatidic acid (PA). PA is the starting point for the synthesis of neutral and polar lipids. The neutral lipids are synthesized on the endoplasmic reticulum via the Kennedy pathway (Voelker (1996) Genetic Engineering, Setlow (ed.) 18:111-113; Shankline & Cahoon (1998) Annu Rev Plant Physiol Plant Mol Biol 49:611-649; Frentzen (1998) Lipids 100:161-166). Besides the biosynthesis of triacylglycerides, G3P also plays a role in glycerol synthesis (for example for the purposes of osmoregulation and against low-temperature stress for example).

G3P, which is essential for the synthesis, is synthesized here by the reduction of dihydroxyacetone phosphate (DHAP) by means of glycerol-3-phosphate dehydrogenase (G3PDH), also termed dihydroxyacetone phosphate reductase. As a rule, NADH acts as reducing cosubstrate (EC 1.1.1.8). A further class of glycerol-3-phosphate dehydrogenases (EC 1.1.99.5) utilizes FAD as cosubstrate. The enzymes of this class catalyze the reaction of DHAP to G3P. In eukaryotic cells, the two classes of enzymes are distributed in different compartments, those which are NAD-dependent being localized in the cytosol and those which are FAD-dependent being localized in the mitochondria (for *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, see, for example, Larsson et al., 1998, Yeast 14:347-357). EP-A 0 353 049 describes an NAD-independent G3PDH from *Bacillus* sp. In *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* too, an NAD-independent G3PDH is identified (Miyata K, Nagahisa M (1969) Plant Cell Physiol 10(3):635-643).

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G3PDH is an essential enzyme in prokaryotes and eukaryotes which, besides having a function in lipid biosynthesis, is one of the enzymes responsible for maintaining the cellular redox status by acting on the NAD⁺/NADH ratio. Deletion of the GPD2 gene in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* (one of two G3PDH isoforms in this yeast) results in reduced growth under anaerobic conditions. In addition, G3PDH appears to play a role in the stress response of yeast mainly to osmotic stress. Deletion of the GPD1 gene in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* causes hypersensitivity to sodium chloride.

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Sequences for G3PDHs have been described for insects (*Drosophila melanogaster*, *Drosophila virilis*), plants (*Arabidopsis thaliana*, *Cuphea lanceolata*), mammals (*Homo sapiens*, *Mus musculus*, *Sus scrofa*, *Rattus norvegicus*), fish (*Salmo salar*, *Osmerus mordax*), birds (*Ovis aries*), amphibians (*Xenopus laevis*), nematodes (*Caenorhabditis elegans*), algae and bacteria.

Plant cells have at least two G3PDH isoforms, a cytoplasmic isoform and a plastid isoform (Gee RW et al. (1988) *Plant Physiol* 86:98-103; Gee RW et al. (1988) *Plant Physiol* 87:379-383). In plants, the enzymatic activity of glycerol-3-phosphate dehydrogenase was first found in potato tubers (Santora GT et al. (1979) *Arch Biochem Biophys* 196:403-411). Further G3PDH activities which were localized in the cytosol and the plastids were detected in other plants such as peas, maize or soya (Gee RW et al. (1988) *PLANT PHYSIOL* 86(1): 98-103). G3PDHs from algae such as, for example, two plastid G3PDH isoforms and one cytosolic G3PDH isoform from *Dunaliella tertiolecta* have furthermore been described (Gee R et al. (1993) *Plant Physiol* 103(1):243-249; Gee R et al. (1989) *PLANT PHYSIOL* 91(1):345-351). As regards the plant G3PDH from *Cuphea lanceolata*, it has been proposed to obtain an increased oil content or a shift in the fatty acid pattern by overexpression in plants (WO 95/06733). However, such effects have not been proven.

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Bacterial G3PDHs and their function have been described (Hsu and Fox (1970) *J Bacteriol* 103:410-416; Bell (1974) *J Bacteriol* 117:1065-1076).

WO 01/21820 describes the heterologous expression of a mutated *E. coli* G3PDH for increased stress tolerance and modification of the fatty acid composition in storage oils. The mutated *E. coli* G3PDH (gpsA2FR) exhibits a single amino acid substitution which brings about reduced inhibition via G3P. The heterologous expression of the gpsA2FR mutant leads to glycerolipids with an increased C16 fatty acid content and, accordingly, a reduced C18 fatty acid content. The modifications in the fatty acid pattern are relatively minor: an increase of 2 to 5% in the 16:0 fatty acids and of 1.5 to 3.5% in the 16:3 fatty acids, and a reduction in 18:2 and 18:3 fatty acids by 2 to 5% were observed. The total glycerolipid content remained unaffected.

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G3PDHs from yeasts (Ascomycetes) such as

- a) Schizosaccharomyces pombe (Pidoux AL et al. (1990) Nucleic Acids Res 18 (23): 7145; GenBank Acc.-No.: X56162; Ohmiya R et al. (1995) Mol Microbiol 18(5):963-73; GenBank Acc.-No.: D50796, D50797),
- b) Yarrowia lipolytica (GenBank Acc.-No.: AJ250328)
- 10 c) Zygosaccharomyces rouxii (Iwaki T et al. Yeast (2001) 18(8):737-44; GenBank Acc.-No: AB047394, AB047395, AB047397) or
- d) Saccharomyces cerevisiae (Albertyn J et al. (1994) Mol Cell Biol 14(6):4135-44; Albertyn J et al. (1992) FEBS LETT 308(2):130-132; Merkel JR et al. (1982) Anal Biochem 122 (1):180-185; Wang HT et al. (1994) J Bacteriol. 176(22):7091-5; Eriksson P et al. (1995) Mol Microbiol. 17(1):95-107; GenBank Acc.-No.: U04621, X76859, Z35169).
- 15
- 20 e) Emericella nidulans (GenBank Acc.-No.: AF228340)
- f) Debaryomyces hansenii (GenBank Acc.-No.: AF210060)

25 are furthermore described.

It is an object of the present invention to provide alternative methods for increasing the oil content in plants. We have found that this object is achieved by the present invention.

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A first subject matter of the invention comprises a method of increasing the total oil content in a plant organism or a tissue, organ, part, cell or propagation material thereof, comprising

- 35 a) the transgenic expression of yeast glycerol-3-phosphate dehydrogenase in said plant organism or in a tissue, organ, part, cell or propagation material thereof, and
- b) the selection of plant organisms in which - in contrast to or
- 40 comparison with the starting organism - the total oil content in said plant organism or in a tissue, organ, part, cell or propagation material thereof is increased.

Surprisingly, it has been found that the seed-specific

45 heterologous expression of the yeast protein Gpd1p (G3PDH from Saccharomyces cerevisiae; SEQ ID NO: 2) in Arabidopsis seeds leads to a significantly increased triacylglyceride (storage

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oils) content. The oil content was increased by approximately 22%, in a transgenic line even by 41%, compared with wild-type control plants (see Fig. 1). The transgenic expression of the yeast glycerol 3-phosphate dehydrogenase had no adverse effects on the growth or other properties of the transformed plants. Since G3PDH is a biosynthetic key enzyme in all plant organisms, the method according to the invention can be applied in principle to all plant species, in addition to the species *Arabidopsis thaliana*, which is employed as model plant. The method according to the invention is preferably applied to oil crops whose oil content is already naturally high and/or for the industrial production of oils.

"Plant" organism or tissue, organ, part, cell or propagation material thereof" is generally understood as meaning any single- or multi-celled organism or a cell, tissue, part or propagation material (such as seeds or fruit) of same which is capable of photosynthesis. Included for the purpose of the invention are all genera and species of higher and lower plants of the Plant Kingdom. Annual, perennial, monocotyledonous and dicotyledonous plants are preferred. Also included are mature plants, seeds, shoots and seedlings, and parts, propagation material (for example tubers, seeds or fruits) and cultures derived from them, for example cell cultures or callus cultures.

For the purposes of the invention, "plant" refers to all genera and species of higher and lower plants of the Plant Kingdom. The term includes the mature plants, seeds, shoots and seedlings, and parts, propagation material, plant organ tissue, protoplasts, callus and other cultures, for example cell cultures, derived from them, and all other species of groups of plant cells giving functional or structural units. Mature plants refers to plants at any developmental stage beyond the seedling. Seedling refers to a young, immature plant at an early developmental stage.

"Plant" encompasses all annual and perennial monocotyledonous or dicotyledonous plants and includes by way of example, but not by limitation, those of the genera Cucurbita, Rosa, Vitis, Juglans, Fragaria, Lotus, Medicago, Onobrychis, Trifolium, Trigonella, Vigna, Citrus, Linum, Geranium, Manihot, Daucus, Arabidopsis, Brassica, Raphanus, Sinapis, Atropa, Capsicum, Datura, Hyoscyamus, Lycopersicon, Nicotiana, Solarium, Petunia, Digitalis, Majorana, Cichorium, Helianthus, Lactuca, Bromus, Asparagus, Antirrhinum, Heterocallis, Nemesis, Pelargonium, Panieum, Pennisetum, Ranunculus, Senecio, Salpiglossis, Cucumis,

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Browaalia, Glycine, Pisum, Phaseolus, Lolium, Oryza, Zea, Avena, Hordeum, Secale, Triticum, Sorghum, Picea and Populus.

Preferred plants are those from the following plant families:

- 5 Amaranthaceae, Asteraceae, Brassicaceae, Carophyllaceae, Chenopodiaceae, Compositae, Cruciferae, Cucurbitaceae, Labiatae, Leguminosae, Papilionoideae, Liliaceae, Linaceae, Malvaceae, Rosaceae, Rubiaceae, Saxifragaceae, Scrophulariaceae, Solanaceae, Sterculiaceae, Tetragoniaceae, Theaceae, Umbelliferae.

10

Preferred monocotyledonous plants are selected in particular from the monocotyledonous crop plants such as, for example, the Gramineae family, such as rice, maize, wheat or other cereal species such as barley, millet and sorghum, rye, triticale or
15 oats, and sugar cane, and all grass species.

The invention is applied very particularly preferably from dicotyledonous plant organisms. Preferred dicotyledonous plants are selected in particular from the dicotyledonous crop plants
20 such as, for example,

- Asteraceae such as sunflower, tagetes or calendula and others,
- Compositae, especially the genus Lactuca, very particularly the
25 species sativa (lettuce) and others,
- Cruciferae, particularly the genus Brassica, very particularly the specis napus (oilseed rape), campestris (beet), oleracea cv Tastie (cabbage), oleracea cv Snowball Y (cauliflower) and
30 oleracea cv Emperor (broccoli) and other cabbages; and the genus Arabidopsis, very particularly the species thaliana, and cress or canola and others,
- Cucurbitaceae such as melon, pumpkin/squash or zucchini and
35 others,
- Leguminosae, particularly the genus Glycine, very particularly the species max (soybean), soya, and alfalfa, pea, beans or peanut and others,
40
- Rubiaceae, preferably the subclass Lamiidae such as, for example Coffea arabica or Coffea liberica (coffee bush) and others,
- 45 - Solanaceae, particularly the genus Lycopersicon, very particularly the species esculentum (tomato), the genus Solanum, very particularly the species tuberosum (potato) and

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melongena (aubergine) and the genus *Capsicum*, very particularly the genus *annuum* (pepper) and tobacco or paprika and others,

- 5 - Sterculiaceae, preferably the subclass Dilleniidae such as, for example, *Theobroma cacao* (cacao bush) and others,
- Theaceae, preferably the subclass Dilleniidae such as, for example, *Camellia sinensis* or *Thea sinensis* (tea shrub) and
- 10 others,
- Umbelliferae, particularly the genus *Daucus* (very particularly the species *carota* (carrot)) and *Apium* (very particularly the species *graveolens dulce* (celery)) and others;

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and linseed, cotton, hemp, flax, cucumber, spinach, carrot, sugar beet and the various tree, nut and grapevine species, in particular banana and kiwi fruit.

- 20 Also encompassed are ornamental plants, useful or ornamental trees, flowers, cut flowers, shrubs or turf. Plants which may be mentioned by way of example but not by limitation are angiosperms, bryophytes such as, for example, Hepaticae (liver flowers) and Musci (mosses); pteridophytes such as ferns,
- 25 horsetail and clubmosses; gymnosperms such as conifers, cycads, ginkgo and Gnetatae, the families of the Rosaceae such as rose, Ericaceae such as rhododendron and azalea, Euphorbiaceae such as poinsettias and croton, Caryophyllaceae such as pinks, Solanaceae such as petunias, Gesneriaceae such as African violet,
- 30 Balsaminaceae such as touch-me-not, Orchidaceae such as orchids, Iridaceae such as gladioli, iris, freesia and crocus, Compositae such as marigold, Geraniaceae such as geranium, Liliaceae such as dracena, Moraceae such as ficus, Araceae such as cheeseplant and many others.

35

Furthermore, plant organisms for the purposes of the invention are further organisms capable of being photosynthetically active such as, for example, algae, cyanobacteria and mosses. Preferred

- 40 *Haematococcus*, *Phaedactylum tricornatum*, *Volvox* or *Dunaliella*. *Synechocystis* is particularly preferred.

- Most preferred are oil crops. Oil crops are understood as being plants whose oil content is already naturally high and/or which
- 45 can be used for the industrial production of oils. These plants can have a high oil content and/or else a particular fatty acid composition which is of interest industrially. Preferred plants

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are those with a lipid content of at least 1% by weight. Oil crops encompass by way of example: *Borago officinalis* (borage); *Brassica* species such as *B. campestris*, *B. napus*, *B. rapa* (mustard, oilseed rape or turnip rape); *Cannabis sativa* (hemp); *Carthamus tinctorius* (safflower); *Cocos nucifera* (coconut); *Crambe abyssinica* (crambe); *Cuphea* species (*Cuphea* species yield fatty acids of medium chain length, in particular for industrial applications); *Elaeis guinensis* (African oil palm); *Elaeis oleifera* (American oil palm); *Glycine max* (soybean); *Gossypium hirsutum* (American cotton); *Gossypium barbadense* (Egyptian cotton); *Gossypium herbaceum* (Asian cotton); *Helianthus annuus* (sunflower); *Linum usitatissimum* (linseed or flax); *Oenothera biennis* (evening primrose); *Olea europaea* (olive); *Oryza sativa* (rice); *Ricinus communis* (castor); *Sesamum indicum* (sesame); *Triticum* species (wheat); *Zea mays* (maize), and various nut species such as, for example, walnut or almond.

"Total oil content" refers to the sum of all oils, preferably to the sum of the triacylglycerides.

20

"Oils" encompasses neutral and/or polar lipids and mixtures of these. Those mentioned in Table 1 may be mentioned by way of example, but not by limitation.

25 Table 1: Classes of plant lipids

30	Neutral lipids	Triacylglycerol (TAG)
		Diacylglycerol (DAG)
		Monoacylglycerol (MAG)
35	Polar lipids	Monogalactosyldiacylglycerol (MGDG)
		Digalactosyldiacylglycerol (DGDG)
		Phosphatidylglycerol (PG)
		Phosphatidylcholine (PC)
		Phosphatidylethanolamine (PE)
		Phosphatidylinositol (PI)
		Phosphatidylserine (PS)
		Sulfoquinovosyldiacylglycerol

40 Neutral lipids preferably refers to triacylglycerides. Both neutral and polar lipids may comprise a wide range of various fatty acids. The fatty acids mentioned in Table 2 may be mentioned by way of example, but not by limitation.

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Table 2: Overview over various fatty acids (selection)

¹ Chain length: number of double bonds

* not naturally occurring in plants

5	Nomenclature ¹	Name
	16:0	Palmitic acid
	16:1	Palmitoleic acid
	16:3	Roughanic acid
	18:0	Stearic acid
10	18:1	Oleic acid
	18:2	Linoleic acid
	18:3	Linolenic acid
	γ -18:3	Gamma-linolenic acid*
	20:0	Arachidic acid
15	22:6	Docosahexanoic acid (DHA) *
	20:2	Eicosadienoic acid
	20:4	Arachidonic acid (AA) *
	20:5	Eicosapentaenoic acid (EPA) *
	22:1	Erucic acid

20 Oils preferably relates to seed oils.

"Increase in" the total oil content refers to the increased oil content in a plant or a part, tissue or organ thereof, preferably in the seed organs of the plants. In this context, the oil content is at least 5%, preferably at least 10%, particularly preferably at least 15%, very particularly preferably at least 20%, most preferably at least 25% increased under otherwise identical conditions in comparison with a starting plant which has not been subjected to the method according to the invention, but is otherwise unmodified. Conditions in this context means all of the conditions which are relevant for germination, culture or growth of the plant, such as soil conditions, climatic conditions, light conditions, fertilization, irrigation, plant protection treatment and the like.

35 "Yeast glycerol 3-phosphate dehydrogenase" (termed "yeast G3PDH" hereinbelow) generally refers to all those enzymes which are capable of converting dihydroxyacetone phosphate (DHAP) into glycerol-3-phosphate (G3P) - preferably using a cosubstrate such as NADH - and which are naturally expressed in a yeast.

40 Yeast refers to the group of unicellular fungi with a pronounced cell wall and formation of pseudomycelium (in contrast to molds). They reproduce vegetatively by budding and/or fission

45 (Schizosaccharomyces and Saccharomyces, respectively).

10

- Encompassed are what are known as false yeasts, preferably the families Cryptococcaceae, Sporobolomycetaceae with the genera Cryptococcus, Torulopsis, Pityrosporum, Brettanomyces, Candida, Kloeckera, Trigonopsis, Trichosporon, Rhodotorula and
- 5 Sporobolomyces and Bullera, and true yeasts (yeasts which also reproduce sexually; ascus), preferably the families endo- and saccharomycetaceae, with the genera Saccharomyces, Debaromyces, Lipomyces, Hansenula, Endomycopsis, Pichia, Hanseniaspora. Most preferred are the genera Saccharomyces cerevisiae, Pichia
- 10 pastoris, Hansenula polymorpha, Schizosaccharomyces pombe, Kluyveromyces lactis, Zygosaccharomyces rouxii, Yarrowia lipolitica, Emericella nidulans, Aspergillus nidulans, Debaryomyces hansenii and Torulaspora hansenii.
- 15 Yeast G3PDH refers in particular to polypeptides which have the following characteristics as "essential characteristics":
- a) the conversion of dihydroxyacetone phosphate into glycerol-3-phosphate using NADH as cosubstrate (EC 1.1.1.8),
- 20 and
- b) a peptide sequence encompassing at least one sequence motif selected from the group of sequence motifs consisting of
- 25 i) GSGNWGT(A/T)IAK (SEQ ID NO: 22)
 ii) CG(V/A)LSGAN(L/I/V)AXE(V/I)A (SEQ ID NO: 26)
 iii) (L/V)FXRPYFXV (SEQ ID NO: 27)
- preferred is the sequence motif selected from the group
- 30 consisting of
- iv) GSGNWGTTIAKV(V/I)AEN (SEQ ID NO: 29)
 v) NT(K/R)HQNVKYL (SEQ ID NO: 30)
 vi) D(I/V)LVFN(I/V)PHQFL (SEQ ID NO: 31)
 35 vii) RA(I/V)SCLKGFE (SEQ ID NO: 32)
 viii) CGALSGANLA(P/T)EVA (SEQ ID NO: 33)
 ix) LFHRPYFHV (SEQ ID NO: 34)
 x) GLGEII(K/R)FG (SEQ ID NO: 35)
- 40 the peptide sequence particularly preferably comprises at least 2 or 3, very particularly preferably at least 4 or 5, most preferably all of the sequence motifs selected from the group of the sequence motifs i), ii) and iii) or selected from the group of the sequence motifs iv), v), vi), vii),
- 45 viii), ix) and xiv). (Terms in brackets refer to amino acids which are possible at this position as alternatives; for

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example (V/I) means that valin or isoleucin are possible at this position).

Moreover, a yeast G3PDH may optionally comprise - in addition to at least one of the abovementioned sequence motifs i) to x) - further sequence motifs selected from the group consisting of

- xi) H(E/Q)NVKYL (SEQ ID NO: 23)
- 10 xii) (D/N)(I/V)(L/I)V(F/W)(V/N)(L/I/V)PHQF(V/L/I) (SEQ ID NO: 24)
- xiii) (A/G)(I/V)SC(L/I)KG (SEQ ID NO: 25)
- xiv) G(L/M)(L/G)E(M/I)(I/Q)(R/K/N)F(G/S/A) (SEQ ID NO: 28)

15 Most preferably, yeast G3PDH refers to the yeast protein Gpd1p as shown in SEQ ID NO: 2 and functional equivalents or else functionally equivalent portions of the above.

Functional equivalents refers in particular to natural or
 20 artificial mutations of the yeast protein Gpd1p as shown in SEQ ID NO: 2 and homologous polypeptides from other yeasts which have the same essential characteristics of a yeast G3PDH as defined above. Mutations encompass substitutions, additions, deletions, inversions or insertions of one or more amino acid residues.
 25 Especially preferred are the polypeptides described by SEQ ID NO: 4, 5, 7, 9, 11, 12, 14, 16, 38 or 40.

The yeast G3PDH to be employed advantageously within the scope of the present invention can be found readily by database searches
 30 or by screening gene or cDNA libraries using the yeast G3PDH sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 2, which is given by way of example, or the nucleic acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 1, which encodes the latter, as search sequence or probe.

35 Said functional equivalents preferably have at least 60%, particularly preferably at least 70%, particularly preferably at least 80%, most preferably at least 90% homology with the protein with the SEQ ID NO: 2.

40 Homology between two polypeptides is understood as meaning the identity of the amino acid sequence over the entire sequence length which is calculated by comparison with the aid of the program algorithm GAP (Wisconsin Package Version 10.0, University of Wisconsin, Genetics Computer Group (GCG), Madison, USA),
 45 setting the following parameters:

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Gap Weight: 8

Length Weight: 2

Average Match: 2,912

Average Mismatch: -2,003

5 For example, a sequence with at least 80% homology with the sequence SEQ ID NO: 2 at the protein level is understood as meaning a sequence which, upon comparison with the sequence SEQ ID NO: 2 with the above program algorithm and the above parameter set has at least 80% homology.

10 Functional equivalents also encompasses those proteins which are encoded by nucleic acid sequences which have at least 60%, particularly preferably at least 70%, particularly preferably at least 80%, most preferably at least 90% homology with the nucleic acid sequence with the SEQ ID NO: 1.

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Homology between two nucleic acid sequences is understood as meaning the identity of the two nucleic acid sequences over the entire sequence length which is calculated by comparison with the aid of the program algorithm GAP (Wisconsin Package Version 10.0,

20 University of Wisconsin, Genetics Computer Group (GCG), Madison, USA), setting the following parameters:

Gap Weight: 50.

Length Weight: 3

25 Average Match: 10

Average Mismatch: 0

For example, a sequence which has at least 80% homology with the sequence SEQ ID NO: 1 at the nucleic acid level is understood as meaning a sequence which, upon comparison with the sequence SEQ
30 ID NO: 1 with the above program algorithm with the above parameter set has a homology of at least 80%.

Functional equivalents also encompass those proteins which are encoded by nucleic acid sequences which hybridize under standard
35 conditions with a nucleic acid sequence described by SEQ ID NO: 1, the nucleic acid sequence which is complementary thereto or parts of the above and which have the essential characteristics for a yeast G3PDH.

40 "Standard hybridization conditions" is to be understood in the broad sense, but preferably refers to stringent hybridization conditions. Such hybridization conditions are described, for example, by Sambrook J, Fritsch EF, Maniatis T et al., in Molecular Cloning (A Laboratory Manual), 2nd edition, Cold Spring
45 Harbor Laboratory Press, 1989, pages 9.31-9.57) or in Current Protocols in Molecular Biology, John Wiley & Sons, N.Y. (1989), 6.3.1-6.3.6. For example, the conditions during the wash step can

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be selected from the range of high-stringency conditions (with approximately 0.2X SSC at 50°C, preferably at 65°C) (20X SSC: 0.3 M sodium citrate, 3 M NaCl, pH 7.0). Denaturing agents such as, for example, formamide or SDS may also be employed during 5 hybridization. In the presence of 50% formamide, hybridization is preferably carried out at 42°C.

The invention furthermore relates to transgenic expression constructs which can ensure a transgenic expression of a 10 yeast G3PDH in a plant organism or a tissue, organ, part, cells or propagation material of said plant organism.

The definition given above applies to yeast G3PDH, with the transgenic expression of a yeast G3PDH described by the sequence 15 with the SEQ ID NO: 2 being particularly preferred.

In said transgenic expression constructs, a nucleic acid molecule encoding a yeast G3PDH is preferably in operable linkage with at least one genetic control element (for example a promoter) which 20 ensures expression in a plant organism or a tissue, organ, part, cell or propagation material of same.

Especially preferred are transgenic expression cassettes wherein the nucleic acid sequence encoding a glycerol-3-phosphate 25 dehydrogenase is described by

- a) a sequence with the SEQ ID NO: 1, 3, 6, 8, 10, 13, 15, 37 or 39, or
- 30 b) a sequence derived from a sequence with the SEQ ID NO: 1, 3, 6, 8, 10, 13, 15, 37 or 39 in accordance with the degeneracy of the genetic code
- c) a sequence which has at least 60% identity with the sequence 35 with the SEQ ID NO: 1.

Operable linkage is understood as meaning, for example, the sequential arrangement of a promoter with the nucleic acid sequence encoding a yeast G3PDH which is to be expressed (for 40 example the sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 1) and, if appropriate, further regulatory elements such as, for example, a terminator in such a way that each of the regulatory elements can fulfil its function when the nucleic acid sequence is expressed recombinantly. Direct linkage in the chemical sense is not 45 necessarily required for this purpose. Genetic control sequences such as, for example, enhancer sequences can also exert their function on the target sequence from positions which are further

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- removed or indeed from other DNA molecules. Preferred arrangements are those in which the nucleic acid sequence to be expressed recombinantly is positioned behind the sequence acting as promoter so that the two sequences are linked covalently to each other. The distance between the promoter sequence and the nucleic acid sequence to be expressed recombinantly is preferably less than 200 base pairs, particularly preferably less than 100 base pairs, very particularly preferably less than 50 base pairs.
- Operable linkage and a transgenic expression cassette can both be effected by means of conventional recombination and cloning techniques as they are described, for example, in Maniatis T, Fritsch EF and Sambrook J (1989) *Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual*, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, Cold Spring Harbor (NY), in Silhavy TJ, Berman ML und Enquist LW (1984) *Experiments with Gene Fusions*, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, Cold Spring Harbor (NY), in Ausubel FM et al. (1987) *Current Protocols in Molecular Biology*, Greene Publishing Assoc. and Wiley Interscience and in Gelvin et al. (1990) *In: Plant Molecular Biology Manual*. However, further sequences which, for example, act as a linker with specific cleavage sites for restriction enzymes, or of a signal peptide, may also be positioned between the two sequences. Also, the insertion of sequences may lead to the expression of fusion proteins. Preferably, the expression cassette composed of a promoter linked to a nucleic acid sequence to be expressed can be in a vector-integrated form and can be inserted into a plant genome, for example by transformation.

However, a transgenic expression cassette is also understood as meaning those constructs where the nucleic acid sequence encoding a yeast G3PDH is placed behind an endogenous plant promoter in such a way that the latter brings about the expression of the yeast G3PDH.

Promoters which are preferably introduced into the transgenic expression cassettes are those which are operable in a plant organism or a tissue, organ, part, cell or propagation material of same. Promoters which are operable in plant organisms is understood as meaning any promoter which is capable of governing the expression of genes, in particular foreign genes, in plants or plant parts, plant cells, plant tissues or plant cultures. In this context, expression may be, for example, constitutive, inducible or development-dependent.

The following are preferred:

15

a) Constitutive promoters

5 "Constitutive" promoters refers to those promoters which ensure expression in a large number of, preferably all, tissues over a substantial period of plant development, preferably at all times during plant development (Benfey et al. (1989) EMBO J 8:2195-2202). A plant promoter or promoter originating from a plant virus is especially preferably used. The promoter of the CaMV (cauliflower mosaic virus) 35S transcript (Franck et al. (1980) Cell 21:285-294; Odell et al. (1985) Nature 313:810-812; Shewmaker et al. (1985) Virology 140:281-288; Gardner et al. (1986) Plant Mol Biol 6:221-228) or the 19S CaMV promoter (US 5,352,605; WO 84/02913; Benfey et al. (1989) EMBO J 8:2195-2202) are especially preferred. Another suitable constitutive promoter is the Rubisco small subunit (SSU) promoter (US 4,962,028), the leguminB promoter (GenBank Acc. No. X03677), the promoter of the nopaline synthase from Agrobacterium, the TR dual promoter, the OCS (octopine synthase) promoter from Agrobacterium, the ubiquitin promoter (Holtorf S et al. (1995) Plant Mol Biol 29:637-649), the ubiquitin 1 promoter (Christensen et al. (1992) Plant Mol Biol 18:675-689; Bruce et al. (1989) Proc Natl Acad Sci USA 86:9692-9696), the Smas promoter, the cinnamyl alcohol dehydrogenase promoter (US 5,683,439), the promoters of the vacuolar ATPase subunits, the promoter of the Arabidopsis thaliana nitrilase-1 gene (GenBank Acc. No.: U38846, nucleotides 3862 to 5325 or else 5342) or the promoter of a proline-rich protein from wheat (WO 91/13991), and further promoters of genes whose constitutive expression in plants is known to the skilled worker. The CaMV 35S promoter and the Arabidopsis thaliana nitrilase-1 promoter are particularly preferred.

b) Tissue-specific promoters

35 Furthermore preferred are promoters with specificities for seeds, such as, for example, the phaseolin promoter (US 5,504,200; Bustos MM et al. (1989) Plant Cell 1(9):839-53), the promoter of the 2S albumin gene (Joseffson LG et al. (1987) J Biol Chem 262:12196-12201), the legumine promoter (Shirsat A et al. (1989) Mol Gen Genet 215(2):326-331), the USP (unknown seed protein) promoter (Bäumlein H et al. (1991) Mol Gen Genet 225(3):459-67), the napin gene promoter (US 5,608,152; Stalberg K et al. (1996) L Planta 199:515-519), the promoter of the sucrose binding proteins (WO 00/26388) or the legumin B4 promoter (LeB4; Bäumlein H et al. (1991) Mol Gen Genet 225: 121-128; Bäumlein et al. (1992) Plant Journal

2(2):233-9; Fiedler U et al. (1995) Biotechnology (NY) 13(10):1090f), the Arabidopsis oleosin promoter (WO 98/45461), and the Brassica Bce4 promoter (WO 91/13980).

- 5 Further suitable seed-specific promoters are those of the gene encoding high-molecular weight glutenin (HMWG), gliadin, branching enzyme, ADP glucose pyrophosphatase (AGPase) or starch synthase. Promoters which are furthermore preferred are those which permit a seed-specific expression in monocots
10 such as maize, barley, wheat, rye, rice and the like. The promoter of the lpt2 or lpt1 gene (WO 95/15389, WO 95/23230) or the promoters described in WO 99/16890 (promoters of the hordein gene, the glutelin gene, the oryzin gene, the prolamins gene, the gliadin gene, the glutelin gene, the zein gene, the casirin gene or the secalin gene) can
15 advantageously be employed.

c) Chemically inducible promoters

- 20 The expression cassettes may also contain a chemically inducible promoter (review article: Gatz et al. (1997) Annu Rev Plant Physiol Plant Mol Biol 48:89-108), by means of which the expression of the exogenous gene in the plant can be controlled at a particular point in time. Such promoters
25 such as, for example, the PRP1 promoter (Ward et al. (1993) Plant Mol Biol 22:361-366), a salicylic acid-inducible promoter (WO 95/19443), a benzenesulfonamide-inducible promoter (EP 0 388 186), a tetracyclin-inducible promoter (Gatz et al. (1992) Plant J 2:397-404), an abscisic
30 acid-inducible promoter EP 0 335 528) or an ethanol-cyclohexanone-inducible promoter (WO 93/21334) can likewise be used. Also suitable is the promoter of the glutathione-S transferase isoform II gene (GST-II-27), which can be activated by exogenously applied safeners such as, for
35 example, N,N-diallyl-2,2-dichloroacetamide (WO 93/01294) and which is operable in a large number of tissues of both monocots and dicots.

Particularly preferred are constitutive promoters, very
40 particularly preferred seed-specific promoters, in particular the napin promoter and the USP promoter.

In addition, further promoters which make possible expression in further plant tissues or in other organisms such as, for example,
45 E.coli bacteria, may be linked operably with the nucleic acid

sequence to be expressed. Suitable plant promoters are, in principle, all of the above-described promoters.

- The nucleic acid sequences present in the transgenic expression cassettes according to the invention or transgenic vectors can be linked operably with further genetic control sequences besides a promoter. The term genetic control sequences is to be understood in the broad sense and refers to all those sequences which have an effect on the establishment or the function of the expression cassette according to the invention. Genetic control sequences modify, for example, transcription and translation in prokaryotic or eukaryotic organisms. The transgenic expression cassettes according to the invention preferably encompass a plant-specific promoter 5'-upstream of the nucleic acid sequence to be expressed recombinantly in each case and, as additional genetic control sequence, a terminator sequence 3'-downstream, and, if appropriate, further customary regulatory elements, in each case linked operably with the nucleic acid sequence to be expressed recombinantly.
- Genetic control sequences also encompass further promoters, promoter elements or minimal promoters capable of modifying the expression-controlling properties. Thus, genetic control sequences can, for example, bring about tissue-specific expression which is additionally dependent on certain stress factors. Such elements are, for example, described for water stress, abscisic acid (Lam E and Chua NH, J Biol Chem 1991; 266(26): 17131 -17135) and thermal stress (Schoffl F et al. (1989) Mol Gen Genetics 217(2-3):246-53).
- Further advantageous control sequences are, for example, in the Gram-positive promoters amy and SPO2, and in the yeast or fungal promoters ADC1, MFa, AC, P-60, CYC1, GAPDH, TEF, rp28, ADH.
- In principle all natural promoters with their regulatory sequences like those mentioned above may be used for the method according to the invention. In addition, synthetic promoters may also be used advantageously.
- Genetic control sequences further also encompass the 5'-untranslated regions, introns or nonencoding 3'-region of genes, such as, for example, the actin-1 intron, or the Adh1-S intron 1, 2 and 6 (for general reference, see: The Maize Handbook, Chapter 116, Freeling and Walbot, Eds., Springer, New York (1994)). It has been demonstrated that these may play a significant role in regulating gene expression. Thus, it has been demonstrated that 5'-untranslated sequences can enhance the

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transient expression of heterologous genes. Translation enhancers which may be mentioned by way of example are the tobacco mosaic virus 5' leader sequence (Gallie et al. (1987) Nucl Acids Res 15:8693-8711) and the like. They may furthermore promote tissue specificity (Rouster J et al. (1998) Plant J 15:435-440).

The transient expression cassette can advantageously contain one or more of what are known as enhancer sequences in operable linkage with the promoter, and these make possible an increased recombinant expression of the nucleic acid sequence. Additional advantageous sequences such as further regulatory elements or terminators may also be inserted at the 3' end of the nucleic acid sequences to be expressed recombinantly. One or more copies of the nucleic acid sequences to be expressed recombinantly may be present in the gene construct.

Polyadenylation signals which are suitable as control sequences are plant polyadenylation signals, preferably those which correspond essentially to *Agrobacterium tumefaciens* T-DNA polyadenylation signals, in particular those of gene 3 of the T-DNA (octopine synthase) of the Ti plasmid pTiACHS (Gielen et al. (1984) EMBO J 3:835 et seq.) or functional equivalents thereof. Examples of particularly suitable terminator sequences are the OCS (octopine synthase) terminator and the NOS (nopaline synthase) terminator.

Control sequences are furthermore understood as those which make possible homologous recombination or insertion into the genome of a host organism, or removal from the genome. In the case of homologous recombination, for example, the coding sequence of the specific endogenous gene can be exchanged in a directed fashion for a sequence encoding a dsRNA. Methods such as the cre/lox technology permit the tissue-specific, possibly inducible, removal of the expression cassette from the genome of the host organism (Sauer B (1998) Methods. 14(4):381-92). Here, certain flanking sequences are added to the target gene (lox sequences), and these make possible removal by means of cre recombinase at a later point in time.

A recombinant expression cassette and the recombinant vectors derived from it may comprise further functional elements. The term functional element is to be understood in the broad sense and refers to all those elements which have an effect on generation, replication or function of the expression cassettes, vectors or transgenic organisms according to the invention.

Examples which may be mentioned, but not by way of limitation, are:

- a) Selection markers which confer resistance to a metabolism inhibitor such as 2-deoxyglucose-6-phosphate (WO 98/45456), antibiotics or biocides, preferably herbicides, such as, for example, kanamycin, G 418, bleomycin, hygromycin, or phosphinothricin and the like. Particularly preferred selection markers are those which confer resistance to herbicides. The following may be mentioned by way of example: DNA sequences which encode phosphinothricin acetyltransferases (PAT) and which inactivate glutamine synthase inhibitors (bar and pat gene), 5-enolpyruvylshikimate-3-phosphate synthase genes (EPSP synthase genes), which confer resistance to Glyphosate® (N-(phosphonomethyl)glycine), the gox gene, which encodes Glyphosate®-degrading enzyme (Glyphosate oxidoreductase), the deh gene (encoding a dehalogenase which inactivates dalapon), sulfonylurea- and imidazolinone-inactivating acetolactate synthases, and bxn genes which encode nitrilase enzymes which degrade bromoxynil, the aasa gene, which confers resistance to the antibiotic apectinomycin, the streptomycin phosphotransferase (SPT) gene, which permits resistance to streptomycin, the neomycin phosphotransferase (NPTII) gene, which confers resistance to kanamycin or geneticidin, the hygromycin phosphotransferase (HPT) gene, which confers resistance to hygromycin, the acetolactate synthase gene (ALS), which confers resistance to sulfonylurea herbicides (for example mutated ALS variants with, for example, the S4 and/or Bra mutation).
- b) Reporter genes which encode readily quantifiable proteins and which allow the transformation efficacy or the expression site or time to be assessed via their color or enzyme activity. Very particularly preferred in this context are reporter proteins (Schenborn E, Groskreutz D. Mol Biotechnol. 1999; 13(1):29-44) such as the "green fluorescence protein" (GFP) (Sheen et al.(1995) Plant Journal 8(5):777-784), chloramphenicol transferase, a luciferase (Ow et al. (1986) Science 234:856-859), the aequorin gene (Prasher et al. (1985) Biochem Biophys Res Commun 126(3):1259-1268), β -galactosidase, with β -glucuronidase being very particularly preferred (Jefferson et al. (1987) EMBO J 6:3901-3907).
- c) Replication origins which allow replication of the expression cassettes or vectors according to the invention in, for example, E.coli. Examples which may be mentioned are ORI

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(origin of DNA replication), the pBR322 ori or the P15A ori (Sambrook et al.: Molecular Cloning. A Laboratory Manual, 2nd ed. Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, Cold Spring Harbor, NY, 1989).

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- d) Elements which are required for agrobacterium-mediated plant transformation such as, for example, the right or left border of the T-DNA, or the vir region.

- 10 To select cells which have successfully undergone homologous recombination or else cells which have successfully been transformed, it is generally required additionally to introduce a selectable marker which confers resistance to a biocide (for example a herbicide), a metabolism inhibitor such as
- 15 2-deoxyglucose-6-phosphate (WO 98/45456) or an antibiotic to the cells which have successfully undergone recombination. The selection marker permits the selection of the transformed cells from untransformed cells (McCormick et al. (1986) Plant Cell Reports 5:81-84).

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In addition, said recombinant expression cassette or vectors may comprise further nucleic acid sequences which do not encode a yeast G3PDH and whose recombinant expression leads to a further increase in fatty acid biosynthesis (as a consequence of proOIL).

- 25 By way of example, but not by limitation, this proOIL nucleic acid sequence which is additionally expressed recombinantly can be selected from among nucleic acids encoding acetyl-CoA carboxylase (ACCase), glycerol-3-phosphate acyltransferase (GPAT), lysophosphatidate acyltransferase (LPAT), diacylglycerol
- 30 acyltransferase (DAGAT) and phospholipid:diacylglycerol acyltransferase (PDAT). Such sequences are known to the skilled worker and are readily accessible from databases or suitable cDNA libraries of the respective plants.

- 35 An expression cassette according to the invention can advantageously be introduced into an organism or cells, tissues, organs, parts or seeds thereof (preferably into plants or plant cells, tissues, organs, parts or seeds) by using vectors in which the recombinant expression cassettes are present. The invention
- 40 therefore furthermore relates to said recombinant vectors which encompass a recombinant expression cassette for a yeast G3PDH.

For example, vectors may be plasmids, cosmids, phages, viruses or else agrobacteria. The expression cassette can be introduced into

- 45 the vector (preferably a plasmid vector) via a suitable restriction cleavage site. The resulting vector is first introduced into E.coli. Correctly transformed E.coli are

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selected, grown, and the recombinant vector is obtained with methods known to the skilled worker. Restriction analysis and sequencing may be used for verifying the cloning step. Preferred vectors are those which make possible stable integration of the expression cassette into the host genome.

The invention furthermore relates to transgenic plant organisms or tissues, organs, parts, cells or propagation material thereof which comprise a yeast G3PDH as defined above, a transgenic expression cassette for a yeast G3PDH or a transgenic vector encompassing such an expression cassette.

Such a transgenic plant organism is generated, for example, by means of transformation or transfection by means of the corresponding proteins or nucleic acids. The generation of a transformed organism (or a transformed cell or tissue) requires introducing the DNA in question (for example the expression vector), RNA or protein into the host cell in question. A multiplicity of methods is available for this procedure, which is termed transformation (or transduction or transfection) (Keown et al. (1990) *Methods in Enzymology* 185:527-537). Thus, the DNA or RNA can be introduced for example directly by microinjection or by bombardment with DNA-coated microparticles. The cell may also be permeabilized chemically, for example with polyethylene glycol, so that the DNA may reach the cell by diffusion. The DNA can also be carried out by protoplast fusion with other DNA-comprising units such as minicells, cells, lysosomes or liposomes. Electroporation is a further suitable method for introducing DNA; here, the cells are permeabilized reversibly by an electrical pulse. Soaking plant parts in DNA solutions, and pollen or pollen tube transformation, are also possible. Such methods have been described (for example in Bilang et al. (1991) *Gene* 100:247-250; Scheid et al. (1991) *Mol Gen Genet* 228:104-112; Guerche et al. (1987) *Plant Science* 52:111-116; Neuhauser et al. (1987) *Theor Appl Genet* 75:30-36; Klein et al. (1987) *Nature* 327:70-73; Howell et al. (1980) *Science* 208:1265; Horsch et al. (1985) *Science* 227:1229-1231; DeBlock et al. (1989) *Plant Physiology* 91:694-701; *Methods for Plant Molecular Biology* (Weissbach and Weissbach, eds.) Academic Press Inc. (1988); and *Methods in Plant Molecular Biology* (Schuler and Zielinski, eds.) Academic Press Inc. (1989)).

In plants, the methods which have been described for transforming and regenerating plants from plant tissues or plant cells are exploited for transient or stable transformation. Suitable methods are, in particular, protoplast transformation by polyethylene glycol-induced DNA uptake, the biolistic method with

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the gene gun, what is known as the particle bombardment method, electroporation, the incubation of dry embryos in DNA-containing solution, and microinjection.

- 5 In addition to these "direct" transformation techniques, transformation may also be effected by bacterial infection by means of *Agrobacterium tumefaciens* or *Agrobacterium rhizogenes* and the transfer of corresponding recombinant Ti plasmids or Ri plasmids by or by infection with transgenic plant viruses.
- 10 *Agrobacterium*-mediated transformation is best suited to cells of dicotyledonous plants. The methods are described, for example, in Horsch RB et al. (1985) *Science* 225: 1229f).

When *agrobacteria* are used, the expression cassette is to be
15 integrated into specific plasmids, either into a shuttle vector or into a binary vector. If a Ti or Ri plasmid is to be used for the transformation, at least the right border, but in most cases the right and left border, of the Ti or Ri plasmid T-DNA is linked to the expression cassette to be introduced as flanking
20 region.

Binary vectors are preferably used. Binary vectors are capable of replication both in *E.coli* and in *Agrobacterium*. As a rule, they contain a selection marker gene and a linker or polylinker
25 flanked by the right and left T-DNA border sequence. They can be transformed directly into *Agrobacterium* (Holsters et al. (1978) *Mol Gen Genet* 163:181-187). The selection marker gene, which is, for example, the *nptII* gene, which confers resistance to kanamycin, permits a selection of transformed *agrobacteria*. The
30 *agrobacterium* which acts as host organism in this case should already contain a plasmid with the *vir* region. The latter is required for transferring the T-DNA to the plant cells. An *agrobacterium* transformed in this way can be used for transforming plant cells. The use of T-DNA for the transformation
35 of plant cells has been studied intensively and described (EP 120 516; Hoekema, In: *The Binary Plant Vector System*, Offsetdrukkerij Kanters B.V., Alblisserdam, Chapter V; An et al. (1985) *EMBO J* 4:277-287). Various binary vectors, some of which are commercially available, such as, for example, pBI101.2 or pBIN19
40 (Clontech Laboratories, Inc. USA), are known.

Further promoters which are suitable for expression in plants have been described (Rogers et al. (1987) *Meth in Enzymol* 153:253-277; Schardl et al. (1987) *Gene* 61:1-11; Berger et al.
45 (1989) *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA* 86:8402-8406).

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Direct transformation techniques are suitable for any organism and cell type. In cases where DNA or RNA are injected or electroporated into plant cells, the plasmid used need not meet any particular requirements. Simple plasmids such as those from the pUC series may be used. If intact plants are to be regenerated from the transformed cells, it is necessary for an additional selectable marker gene to be present on the plasmid.

Stably transformed cells, i.e. those which contain the inserted DNA integrated into the DNA of the host cell, can be selected from untransformed cells when a selectable marker is part of the inserted DNA. By way of example, any gene which is capable of conferring resistance to antibiotics or herbicides (such as kanamycin, G 418, bleomycin, hygromycin or phosphinothricin and the like) is capable of acting as marker (see above). Transformed cells which express such a marker gene are capable of surviving in the presence of concentrations of such an antibiotic or herbicide which kill an untransformed wild type. Examples are mentioned above and preferably comprise the bar gene, which confers resistance to the herbicide phosphinothricin (Rathore KS et al. (1993) Plant Mol Biol 21(5):871-884), the nptII gene, which confers resistance to kanamycin, the hpt gene, which confers resistance to hygromycin, or the EPSP gene, which confers resistance to the herbicide Glyphosate. The selection marker permits selection of transformed cells from untransformed cells (McCormick et al. (1986) Plant Cell Reports 5:81-84). The plants obtained can be bred and hybridized in the customary manner. Two or more generations should be grown in order to ensure that the genomic integration is stable and hereditary.

The above-described methods are described, for example, in Jenes B et al. (1993) Techniques for Gene Transfer, in: Transgenic Plants, Vol. 1, Engineering and Utilization, edited by SD Kung and R Wu, Academic Press, pp.128-143, and in Potrykus (1991) Annu Rev Plant Physiol Plant Molec Biol 42:205-225). The construct to be expressed is preferably cloned into a vector which is suitable for transforming *Agrobacterium tumefaciens*, for example pBin19 (Bevan et al. (1984) Nucl Acids Res 12:8711f).

Once a transformed plant cell has been generated, an intact plant can be obtained using methods known to the skilled worker. For example, callus cultures are used as starting material. The development of shoot and root can be induced in this as yet undifferentiated cell biomass in the known fashion. The plantlets obtained can be planted out and used for breeding.

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The skilled worker is familiar with such methods for regenerating plant parts and intact plants from plant cells. Methods which can be used for this purpose are, for example, those described by Fennell et al. (1992) Plant Cell Rep. 11: 567-570; Stoeger et al 5 (1995) Plant Cell Rep. 14:273-278; Jahne et al. (1994) Theor Appl Genet 89:525-533.

"Transgenic", for example in the case of a yeast G3PDH, refers to a nucleic acid sequence, an expression cassette or a vector 10 comprising said G3PDH nucleic acid sequence or to an organism transformed with said nucleic acid sequence, expression cassette or vector all those constructs established by recombinant methods in which either

- 15 a) the nucleic acid sequence encoding a yeast G3PDH or
- b) a genetic control sequence, for example a promoter which is functional in plant organisms, which is linked operably with said nucleic acid sequence under a), or
- 20 c) (a) and (b)

are not in their natural genetic environment or have been modified by recombinant methods, it being possible for the 25 modification to be, for example, a substitution, addition, deletion, inversion or insertion of one or more nucleotide residues. Natural genetic environment refers to the natural chromosomal locus in the source organism or the presence in a genomic library. In the case of a genomic library, the natural 30 genetic environment of the nucleic acid sequence is preferably retained, at least to some extent. The environment flanks the nucleic acid sequence at least on one side and has a sequence length of at least 50 bp, preferably at least 500 bp, particularly preferably at least 1000 bp, very particularly 35 preferably at least 5000 bp. A naturally occurring expression cassette, for example the naturally occurring combination of the promoter of a gene encoding for a yeast G3PDH with the corresponding yeast G3PDH gene, becomes a transgenic expression cassette when the latter is modified by non-natural, synthetic 40 ("artificial") methods such as, for example, a mutagenization. Such methods are described (US 5,565,350; WO 00/15815; see also above).

Host or starting organisms which are preferred as transgenic 45 organisms are, above all, plants in accordance with the above definition. Included for the purposes of the invention are all genera and species of higher and lower plants of the Plant

25

Kingdom, in particular plants which are used for obtaining oils, such as, for example, oilseed rape, sunflower, sesame, safflower, olive tree, soya, maize, wheat and nut species. Furthermore included are the mature plants, seed, shoots and seedlings, and 5 parts, propagation material and cultures, for example cell cultures, derived therefrom. Mature plants refers to plants at any desired developmental stage beyond the seedling stage. Seedling refers to a young, immature plant at an early developmental stage.

10

The transgenic organisms can be generated with the above-described methods for the transformation or transfection of organisms.

- 15 The invention furthermore relates to the use of the transgenic organisms according to the invention and to the cells, cell cultures, parts - such as, for example, in the case of transgenic plant organisms roots, leaves and the like - and transgenic propagation material such as seeds or fruits which are derived 20 therefrom for the production of foodstuffs or feedstuffs, pharmaceuticals or fine chemicals, in particular oils, fats, fatty acids or derivatives of these.

- Besides influencing the oil content, the transgenic expression of 25 a yeast G3PDH in plants may mediate yet further advantageous effects such as, for example, an increased stress resistance to, for example, osmotic stress. Via increased glycerol levels, the yeast G3PDH confers protection against this type of stress, with glycerol acting as osmoprotective substance. Such osmotic stress 30 occurs for example in saline soils and water and is an increasing problem in agriculture. Increased stress tolerance makes it possible, for example, to use areas in which conventional arable plants are not capable of thriving for agricultural usage.

- 35 Furthermore, recombinant expression of the yeast G3PDH can influence the NADH level and thus the redox balance in the plant organism. Stress such as, for example, drought, high or low temperatures, UV light and the like can lead to increased NADH levels and to an increased formation of reactive oxygen (RO). 40 Transgenic expression of the yeast G3PDH can break down excessive NADH, which accumulates under said stress conditions, and thus stabilize the redox balance and alleviate the effects of the stress.

45

26

Sequences

1. SEQ ID NO: 1
Nucleic acid sequence encoding *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* G3PDH
5 (Gpd1p)
2. SEQ ID NO: 2
Protein sequence encoding *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* G3PDH
10 (Gpd1p)
3. SEQ ID NO: 3
Nucleic acid sequence encoding *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* G3PDH
(Gpd2p)
- 15 4. SEQ ID NO: 4
Protein sequence encoding *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* G3PDH
(Gpd2p)
5. SEQ ID NO: 5
20 Protein sequence encoding *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* G3PDH
(Gpd2p) with second alternative start codon
6. SEQ ID NO: 6
Nucleic acid sequence encoding *Schizosaccharomyces pombe*
25 G3PDH
7. SEQ ID NO: 7
Protein sequence encoding *Schizosaccharomyces pombe* G3PDHD
- 30 8. SEQ ID NO: 8
Nucleic acid sequence encoding *Schizosaccharomyces pombe*
G3PDH
9. SEQ ID NO: 9
35 Protein sequence encoding *Schizosaccharomyces pombe* G3PDH
10. SEQ ID NO: 10
Nucleic acid sequence encoding *Yarrowinia lipolytica* G3PDH
- 40 11. SEQ ID NO: 11
Protein sequence encoding *Yarrowinia lipolytica* G3PDH
12. SEQ ID NO: 12
Protein sequence encoding *Yarrowinia lipolytica* G3PDH, with
45 second alternative start codon

27

13. SEQ ID NO: 13
Nucleic acid sequence encoding *Zygosaccharomyces rouxii* G3PDH
14. SEQ ID NO: 14
5 Protein sequence encoding *Zygosaccharomyces rouxii* G3PDH
15. SEQ ID NO: 15
Nucleic acid sequence encoding *Zygosaccharomyces rouxii* G3PDH
- 10 16. SEQ ID NO: 16
Protein sequence encoding *Zygosaccharomyces rouxii* G3PDH
17. SEQ ID NO: 16
Expression vector based on pSUN-USP for *S.cerevisiae* G3PDH
15 (Gpd1p; 1017 - 2190 bp insert)
18. SEQ ID NO: 18 Oligonucleotide primer ONP1
5'-ACTAGTATGTCTGCTGCTGCTGATAG-3'
- 20 19. SEQ ID NO: 19 Oligonucleotide primer ONP2
5'-CTCGAGATCTTCATGTAGATCTAATT-3'
20. SEQ ID NO: 20 Oligonucleotide primer ONP3
5'-GCGGCCGCCATGTCTGCTGCTGCTGATAG-3'
- 25 21. SEQ ID NO: 21 Oligonucleotide primer ONP4
5'-GCGGCCGCATCTTCATGTAGATCTAATT-3'
- 22-35: SEQ ID NP 22 to 35: Sequence motifs for yeast G3PDHs;
30 possible sequence variations are given. The variations of
an individual motif may occur in each case alone, but
also in the different combinations with each other.
36. SEQ ID NO: 36
35 Expression vector pGPTV-gpd1 based on pGPTV-napin for
S.cerevisiae G3PDH (Gpd1p; gdp1 insert of 11962-13137 bp; nos
terminator: 13154-13408; napin promoter: 10807-11951).
37. SEQ ID NO: 37
40 Nucleic acid sequence encoding *Emericella nidulans* G3PDH
38. SEQ ID NO: 38
Amino acid encoding *Emericella nidulans* G3PDH

39. SEQ ID NO: 39

Nucleic acid sequence encoding *Debaryomyces hansenii* G3PDH
(partial)

5 40. SEQ ID NO: 40

Amino acid encoding *Debaryomyces hansenii* G3PDH (partial)

Figures

10 Fig. 1: Oil content in transgenic GPDlp lines

Measurement of the TAG content in T2 seeds of transgenic *Arabidopsis* lines with the *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* Gpd1p gene (G2 to G30). The content in corresponding
15 untransformed plants (wild-type plants; W1 to W10) has been determined for comparison. 8 *Arabidopsis* lines with a significantly increased oil content were identified. The error deviation stated is the result of 3 independent measurements in each case.

20

Fig. 2: Determination of the oil content in seeds of the T3 generation

The data shown are the oil content (in mg lipid per g dry matter (DM)) of individual *Arabidopsis* lines. Each column
25 represents the mean of 6 individual plants per independent line. Each plant was analysed in triplicate. The error bars denote the standard deviation over all values. The control plants are identified by "col". The
30 numerical values of the individual data are additionally shown in the following table (the control was set as 100% oil content):

35

40

45

Lines	Oil content (mg/g)	STD	Rel. increase in %
col	278.1	12.2	100
#11	304.6	18.3	110
#12	301.4	19.0	108
#13	275.2	89.7	99
#21	323.2	77.0	116
#24	268.9	15.1	97
#25	293.6	23.0	106
#27	285.6	18.4	103
#41	316.1	19.1	114
#53	260.3	16.4	94
#67	292.0	13.8	105
#71	244.1	11.6	88
#82	295.6	16.8	106

29

Lines with a statistically significantly increased lipid content (lines #11, #21, #41 and #67) are presented as a black bar.

5 Fig. 3: Determination of the G3PDH activity in the control ("col") and the gdp1-transformed plants.

The G3PDG activity of the individual lines was determined as deccribed in Example 8 and is shown in nmol G3P per minute per g of fresh weight (FW).

10

15

20

	G3PDH Activity	STD
col	6.68337432	0.71785229
#11	11.8958635	1.67941604
#12	9.14226124	2.25411878
#13	8.8210768	2.19519777
#21	9.88435444	1.04798566
#24	5.89378595	1.26005769
#25	5.14179348	1.22845409
#27	6.77303725	3.22220935
#41	20.8325636	5.42018531
#53	7.45794947	2.25573816
#67	12.7670015	0.74678353
#71	9.04748534	1.59829185
#82	9.37260033	2.1356558

25

Lines with a statistically significantly increased G3PDH activity (lines #11, #21, #41 and #67) are presented as a black bar. It can be seen that an increased G3PDG activity correlates with an increased lipid content.

30

Examples

General methods:

35 Unless otherwise specified, all chemicals were from Fluka (Buchs), Merck (Darmstadt), Roth (Karlsruhe), Serva (Heidelberg) and Sigma (Deisenhofen). Restriction enzymes, DNA-modifying enzymes and molecular biological kits were from Amersham-Pharmacia (Freiburg), Biometra (Göttingen), Roche (Mannheim), New England Biolabs (Schwalbach), Novagen (Madison, 40 Wisconsin, USA), Perkin-Elmer (Weiterstadt), Qiagen (Hilden), Stratagen (Amsterdam, Netherlands), Invitrogen (Karlsruhe) and Ambion (Cambridgeshire, United Kingdom). The reagents used were employed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

45

30

For example, oligonucleotides can be synthesized chemically in the known manner using the phosphoramidite method (Voet, Voet, 2nd edition, Wiley Press New York, pages 896-897). The cloning steps carried out for the purposes of the present invention such as, 5 for example, restriction cleavages, agarose gel electrophoreses, purification of DNA fragments, transfer of nucleic acids to nitrocellulose and nylon membranes, linking DNA fragments, transformation of *E. coli* cells, bacterial cultures, multiplication of phages and sequence analysis of recombinant 10 DNA, are carried out as described by Sambrook et al. (1989) Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press; ISBN 0-87969-309-6. Recombinant DNA molecules were sequenced using an ABI laser fluorescence DNA sequencer following the method of Sanger (Sanger et al. (1977) Proc Natl Acad Sci USA 74:5463-5467).

15

Example 1: General methods

The plant *Arabidopsis thaliana* belongs to the higher plants (flowering plants). This plant is closely related to other plant 20 species from the Cruciferae family such as, for example, *Brassica napus*, but also to other families of dicotyledonous plants. Owing to the high degree of homology of its DNA sequences or its polypeptide sequences, *Arabidopsis thaliana* can be employed as model plant for other plant species.

25

a) Culture of *Arabidopsis* plants

The plants are grown either on Murashige-Skoog medium supplemented with 0.5 % sucrose (Ogas et al. (1997) Science 30 277:91-94) or in soil (Focks & Benning (1998) Plant Physiol 118:91-101). To achieve uniform germination and flowering times, the seeds are first placed on medium or scattered on the soil and then stratified for two days at 4°C. After flowering, the pods are labeled. According to the labels, 35 pods aged 6 to 20 days post-anthesis are then harvested.

Example 2: Cloning the yeast *Gpd1* gene

Genomic DNA from *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* strain S288C (Mat alpha 40 SUC2 mal mel gal2 CUP1 flol1 flo8-1; Invitrogen, Karlsruhe, Germany) was isolated following the protocol described hereinbelow:

A 100 ml culture was grown at 30°C to an optical density of 1.0. 45 60 ml of the culture were spun down for 3 minutes at 3000 x g. The pellet was resuspended in 6 ml of twice-distilled H₂O and the suspension was divided between 1.5 ml containers and spun down,

31

and the supernatant was discarded. The pellets were resuspended in 200 µl of solution A, 200 µl phenol/chloroform (1:1) and 0.3 g of glass beads by vortexing and then lysed. After addition of 200 µl of TE buffer, pH 8.0, the lysates were spun for 5 minutes. The supernatant was subjected to ethanol precipitation with 1 ml of ethanol. After the precipitation, the resulting pellet was dissolved in 400 µl of TE buffer pH 8.0 + 30 µg/ml RNase A. Following incubation for 5 minutes at 37°C, 18 µl 3 M sodium acetate solution pH 4.8 and 1 ml of ethanol were added, and the precipitated DNA was pelleted by spinning. The DNA pellet was dissolved in 25 µl of twice-distilled H₂O. The concentration of the genomic DNA was determined by its absorption at 260 nm.

Solution A:

- 15 2 % Triton-X100
- 1 % SDS
- 0.1 M NaCl
- 0.01 M Tris-HCl pH 8.0
- 0.001 M EDTA

20

To clone the Gpd1 gene, the yeast DNA which has been isolated was employed in a PCR reaction with the oligonucleotide primers ONP1 and ONP2.

- 25 ONP1: 5'-ACTAGTATGTCTGCTGCTGCTGATAG-3' (SEQ ID NO: 18)
- ONP2: 5'-CTCGAGATCTTCATGTAGATCTAATT-3' (SEQ ID NO: 19)

Composition of the PCR reaction (50 µl):

- 30 5.00 µl 5 µg genomic yeast-DNA
- 5.00 µl 10x buffer (Advantage polymerase)+ 25 mM MgCl₂
- 5.00 µl 2 mM dNTP
- 1.25 µl each primer (10 pmol/µL)
- 0.50 µl Advantage polymerase

35

The Advantage polymerase employed was from Clontech.

PCR-Program:

- Initial denaturation for 2 min at 95°C, then 35 cycles of 45 sec at 95°C, 45 sec at 55°C and 2 min at 72°C. Final extension for 5 min at 72°C.

- The PCR products were cloned into the vector pCR2.1-TOPO (Invitrogen) following the manufacturer's instructions, resulting in the vector pCR2.1-gpd1, and the sequence was verified by sequencing.

32

Cloning into the agro transformation vector pGPTV involved incubating 0.5 µg of the vector pCR2.1-gpd1 with the restriction enzyme XhoI (New England Biolabs) for 2 hours and subsequent incubation for 15 minutes with Klenow fragment (New England Biolabs). After incubation for 2 hours with SpeI, the DNA fragments were separated by gel electrophoresis. The 1185 bp segment of the gpd1 sequence next to the vector (3.9 kb) was excized from the gel, purified with the "Gel Purification" kit from Qiagen following the manufacturer's instructions and eluted with 50 µl of elution buffer. 0.1 µg of the vector pGPTV was first digested for 1 hour with the restriction enzyme SacI and then incubated for 15 minutes with Klenow fragment (New England Biolabs). 10 µl of the eluate of the gpd1 fragments and 10 ng of the treated pGPTV vector were ligated overnight at 16°C (T4 ligase, New England Biolabs). The ligation products were then transformed into TOP10 cells (Stratagene) following the manufacturer's instructions and suitably selected, resulting in the vector pGPTV-gpd1. Positive clones are verified by sequencing and PCR using the primers ONP1 and ONP2.

20.

To generate the vector pSUN-USP-gpd1, a PCR was carried out with the vector pCR2.1-gpd1 using the primers ONP3 and ONP4.

ONP3: 5'-GCGGCCGCCATGCTCTGCTGCTGCTGATAG-3' (SEQ ID NO: 20)

25 ONP4: 5'-GCGGCCGCATCTTCATGTAGATCTAATT-3' (SEQ ID NO: 21)

Composition of the PCR reaction (50 µl):

5 ng DNA plasmid pCR2.1-gpd1

5.00 µl 10x buffer (Advantage polymerase)+ 25 mM MgCl₂

30 5.00 µl 2 mM dNTP

1.25 µl each primer (10 pmol/µL)

0.50 µl Advantage polymerase

The Advantage polymerase employed was from Clontech.

35

PCR-Program:

Initial denaturation for 2 min at 95°C, then 35 cycles of 45 sec at 95°C, 45 sec at 55°C and 2 min at 72°C. Final extension for 5 min at 72°C.

40

The 1190 bp PCR product was digested for 24 hours with the restriction enzyme NotI. The vector pSUN-USP was digested for 2 hours with NotI and then incubated for 15 minutes with alkaline phosphatase (New England Biolabs). 100 ng of the pretreated gpd1 fragment and 10 ng of the treated vector pGPTV were ligated overnight at 16°C (T4 Ligase from New England Biolabs). The ligation products were then transformed into TOP10 cells

33

(Stratagene) following the manufacturer's instructions and suitably selected, resulting in the vector pSUN-USP-gpd1. Positive clones are verified by sequencing and PCR using the primers ONP3 and ONP4.

5

Example 3: Plasmids for the transformation of plants

Binary vectors such as pBinAR can be used for the transformation of plants (Höfgen und Willmitzer (1990) Plant Science 66: 221-230). The binary vectors can be constructed by ligating the cDNA into T-DNA in sense and antisense orientation. 5' of the cDNA, a plant promoter activates the transcription of the cDNA. A polyadenylation sequence is located 3' of the cDNA.

15 Tissue-specific expression can be achieved using a tissue-specific promoter. For example, seed-specific expression can be achieved by cloning in the napin or the LeB4- or the USP promoter 5' of the cDNA. Any other seed-specific promoter element can also be used. The CaMV 35S promoter can be used for
20 constitutive expression in the whole plant.

A further example of binary vectors is the vector pSUN-USP and pGPTV-napin, into which the fragment of Example 2 was cloned. The vector pSUN-USP contains the USP promoter and the OCS terminator.
25 The vector pGPTV-napin contains a truncated version of the napin promoter, and the nos terminator.

The fragments of Example 2 were cloned into the multiple cloning site of the vector pSUN-USP and pGPTV-napin respectively, to make
30 possible the seed-specific expression of the gdp1 gene. The corresponding construct pSUN-USP-gpd1 is described with the SEQ ID NO: 17, and the construct of G3PDH in pGPTV-napin (pGPTV-gpd1) by SEQ ID NO: 36.

35 Example 4: Transformation of Agrobacterium

Agrobacterium-mediated plant transformation can be carried out for example using the Agrobacterium tumefaciens strains GV3101 (pMP90) (Koncz und Schell (1986) Mol Gen Genet 204: 383-396) or
40 LBA4404 (Clontech). Standard transformation techniques may be used for the transformation (Deblaere et al. (1984) Nucl Acids Res 13:4777-4788).

34

Example 5: Transformation of plants

Agrobacterium-mediated plant transformation can be effected using standard transformation and regeneration techniques (Gelvin SB, 5 Schilperoort R, Plant Molecular Biology Manual, 2nd ed., Dordrecht: Kluwer Academic Publ., 1995, in Sect., Ringbuch Zentrale Signatur: BT11-P ISBN 0-7923-2731-4; Glick BR, Thompson JE, Methods in Plant Molecular Biology and Biotechnology, Boca Raton: CRC Press, 1993, 360 pp., ISBN 0-8493-5164-2).

10

The transformation of *Arabidopsis thaliana* by means of Agrobacterium was carried out by the method of Bechthold et al., 1993 (C.R. Acad. Sci. Ser. III Sci. Vie., 316, 1194-1199).

- 15 For example, oilseed rape can be transformed by cotyledon or hypocotyl transformation (Moloney et al. (1989) Plant Cell Report 8:238-242; De Block et al. (1989) Plant Physiol 91: 694-701). The use of antibiotics for the selection of agrobacteria and plants depends on the binary vector used for the transformation and the 20 agrobacterial strain. The selection of oilseed rape is usually carried out using kanamycin as selectable plant marker.

Agrobacterium-mediated gene transfer into linseed (*Linum usitatissimum*) can be carried out for example using a technique 25 described by Mlynarova et al. (1994) Plant Cell Report 13:282-285. Soya can be transformed for example using a technique described in EP-A-0 0424 047 (Pioneer Hi-Bred International) or in EP-A-0 0397 687, US 5,376,543, US 5,169,770 (University of Toledo).

30

The transformation of plants using particle bombardment, polyethylene glycol mediated DNA uptake or via the silicon carbonate fiber technique is described, for example, by Freeling and Walbot "The Maize Handbook" (1993) ISBN 3-540-97826-7, 35 Springer Verlag New York).

Example 6: Studying the expression of a recombinant gene product in a transformed organism

- 40 The activity of a recombinant gene product in the transformed host organism was measured at the transcription and/or translation level.

A suitable method for determining the level of transcription of 45 the gene (which indicates the amount of RNA available for translating the gene product) is to carry out a Northern blot as described hereinbelow (for reference see Ausubel et al. (1988))

Current Protocols in Molecular Biology, Wiley: New York, or the above examples section), where a primer which is designed such that it binds to the gene of interest is labeled with a detectable label (usually a radiolabel or chemiluminescent label) so that, when the total RNA of a culture of the organism is extracted, separated on a gel, transferred to a stable matrix and incubated with this probe, binding and the extent of binding of the probe indicates the presence and the amount of mRNA for this gene. This information indicates the degree of transcription of the transformed gene. Cellular total RNA can be prepared from cells, tissues or organs using several methods, all of which are known in the art, for example the method Bormann, E.R., et al. (1992) Mol. Microbiol. 6:317-326.

15 Northern hybridization:

To carry out the RNA hybridization, 20 µg of total RNA or 1 µg of poly(A)+ RNA were separated by means of gel electrophoresis in 1.25% strength agarose gels using formaldehyde and following the method described by Amasino (1986, Anal. Biochem. 152, 304), transferred to positively charged nylon membranes (Hybond N+, Amersham, Brunswick) by capillary force using 10 x SSC, immobilized by UV light and prehybridized for 3 hours at 68°C using hybridization buffer (10% dextran sulfate w/v, 1 M NaCl, 1 % SDS, 100 mg herring sperm DNA). The DNA probe was labeled with the Highprime DNA labeling kit (Roche, Mannheim, Germany) during the prehybridization step, using alpha-³²P-dCTP (Amersham Pharmacia, Brunswick, Germany). Hybridization was carried out overnight at 68°C after addition of the labeled DNA probe in the same buffer. The wash steps were carried out twice for 15 minutes using 2 X SSC and twice for 30 minutes using 1 X SSC, 1% SDS, at 68°C. The sealed filters were exposed at -70°C for a period of 1 to 14 days.

35 To study the presence or the relative amount of protein translated from this mRNA, standard techniques such as a Western blot may be employed (see, for example, Ausubel et al. (1988) Current Protocols in Molecular Biology, Wiley: New York). In this method, the cellular total proteins are extracted, separated by means of gel electrophoresis, transferred to a matrix like nitrocellulose and incubated with a probe such as an antibody which binds specifically to the desired protein. This probe is usually provided with a chemiluminescent or colorimetric label which can be detected readily. The presence and the amount of the label observed indicates the presence and the amount of the desired mutated protein which is present in the cell.

36

Example 7: Analysis of the effect of the recombinant proteins
on the production of the desired product

The effect of genetic modification in plants, fungi, algae,
5 ciliates or on the production of a desired compound (such as a
fatty acid) can be determined by growing the modified
microorganisms or the modified plant under suitable conditions
(as described above) and examining the medium and/or the cellular
components for increased production of the desired product (i.e.
10 lipids or a fatty acid). These analytical techniques are known to
the skilled worker and comprise spectroscopy, thin-layer
chromatography, various staining methods, enzymatic and
microbiological methods, and analytical chromatography such as
high-performance liquid chromatography (see, for example,
15 Ullmann, Encyclopedia of Industrial Chemistry, vol. A2, pp. 89-90
and pp. 443-613, VCH: Weinheim (1985); Fallon A et al. (1987)
"Applications of HPLC in Biochemistry" in: Laboratory Techniques
in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, vol. 17; Rehm et al.
(1993) Biotechnology, vol. 3, chapter III: "Product recovery and
20 purification", pp. 469-714, VCH: Weinheim; Belter PA et al.
(1988) Bioseparations: downstream processing for Biotechnology,
John Wiley and Sons; Kennedy JF und Cabral JMS (1992) Recovery
processes for biological Materials, John Wiley and Sons;
Shaeiwitz JA and Henry JD (1988) Biochemical Separations, in:
25 Ullmann's Encyclopedia of Industrial Chemistry, vol. B3; chapter
11, p. 1-27, VCH: Weinheim; and Dechow, F.J. (1989) Separation
and purification techniques in biotechnology, Noyes
Publications).

30 In addition to the abovementioned methods, plant lipids are
extracted from plant material as described by Cahoon et al.
(1999) Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 96 (22):12935-12940, and Browse
et al. (1986) Analytic Biochemistry 152:141-145. Qualitative and
quantitative lipid or fatty acid analysis is described by
35 Christie, William W., Advances in Lipid Methodology,
Ayr/Scotland: Oily Press (Oily Press Lipid Library; 2); Christie,
William W., Gas Chromatography and Lipids. A Practical Guide -
Ayr, Scotland: Oily Press, 1989, Repr. 1992, IX, 307 pp. (Oily
Press Lipid Library; 1); "Progress in Lipid Research, Oxford:
40 Pergamon Press, 1 (1952) - 16 (1977) under the title: Progress in
the Chemistry of Fats and Other Lipids CODEN.

In addition to measuring the end product of the fermentation, it
is also possible to analyze other components of the metabolic
45 pathways which are used for producing the desired compound, such
as intermediates and secondary products, in order to determine
the overall efficacy of the production of the compound. The

analytical methods encompass measurements of the nutrient quantities in the medium (for example sugars, carbohydrates, nitrogen sources, phosphate and other ions), measurements of the biomass compositions and of the growth, analysis of the production of customary metabolites of biosynthetic pathways, and measurements of gases produced during fermentation. Standard methods for these measurements are described in Applied Microbial Physiology; A Practical Approach, P.M. Rhodes and P.F. Stanbury, ed., IRL Press, pp. 103-129; 131-163 and 165-192 (ISBN: 0199635773) and references cited therein.

One example is the analysis of fatty acids (abbreviations: FAME, fatty acid methyl esters; GC-MS, gas-liquid chromatography/mass spectrometry; TAG, triacylglycerol; TLC, thin-layer chromatography).

Unambiguous proof for the presence of fatty acid products can be obtained by analyzing recombinant organisms by analytical standard methods: GC, GC-MS or TLC, as described variously by Christie and the references cited therein (1997, in: Advances on Lipid Methodology, fourth edition: Christie, Oily Press, Dundee, 119-169; 1998, Gaschromatographie-Massenspektrometrie-Verfahren [gas-chromatographic/mass-spectrometric methods], Lipide 33:343-353).

The material to be analyzed can be disrupted by sonication, milling in the glass mill, liquid nitrogen and milling or other applicable methods. After disruption, the material must be centrifuged. The sediment is resuspended in distilled water, heated for 10 minutes at 100°C, cooled on ice and recentrifuged, followed by extraction in 0.5 M sulfuric acid in methanol with 2% dimethoxypropane for 1 hour at 90°C, which gives hydrolyzed oil and lipid compounds, which give transmethylated lipids. These fatty acid methyl esters are extracted in petroleum ether and finally subjected to GC analysis using a capillary column (Chrompack, WCOT Fused Silica, CP-Wax-52 CB, 25 mm, 0.32 mm) at a temperature gradient of between 170°C and 240°C for 20 minutes and for 5 minutes at 240°C. The identity of the fatty acid methyl esters obtained must be defined using standards which are available from commercial sources (i.e. Sigma).

The following protocol was used for the quantitative oil analysis of the Arabidopsis plants transformed with the Gpd1 gene:

Lipid extraction from the seeds is carried out by the method of Bligh & Dyer (1959) Can J Biochem Physiol 37:911. To this end, 5 mg of Arabidopsis seeds are weighed into 1.2 ml Qiagen microtubes

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(Qiagen, Hilden) using a Sartorius (Göttingen) microbalance. The seed material is homogenized with 500 μ l chloroform/methanol (2:1; contains mono-C17-glycerol from Sigma as internal standard) in an MM300 Retsch mill from Retsch (Haan) and incubated for 20 minutes at RT. The phases were separated after addition of 500 μ l 50 mM potassium phosphate buffer pH 7.5. 50 μ l are removed from the organic phase, diluted with 1500 μ l of chloroform, and 5 μ l are applied to Chromarods SIII capillaries from Iatroscan (SKS, Bechenheim). After application of the samples, they are separated in a first step for 15 mins in a thin-layer chamber saturated with 6:2:2 chloroform: methanol: toluene. After the time has elapsed, the capillaries are dried for 4 minutes at room temperature and then placed for 22 minutes into a thin-layer chamber saturated with 7:3 n-hexane:diethyl ether. After a further drying step for 4 minutes at room temperature, the samples are analyzed in an Iatroscan MK-5 (SKS, Bechenheim) following the method of Fraser & Taggart, 1988 J. Chromatogr. 439:404. The following parameters were set for the measurements: slice width 50 msec, threshold 20 mV, noise 30, skim ratio 0. The data were quantified with reference to the internal standard mono-C17-glycerol (Sigma) and a calibration curve established with tri-C17-glycerol (Sigma), using the program ChromStar (SKS, Beichenheim).

T2 seeds of several independent transgenic lines with the constructs pSUN-USP-gpd1 or pGPTV-gpd1 were analyzed to determine the oil contents quantitatively. Three independent extractions were carried out with the seed pools of each line, and the extracts were measured independently. The three independent measurements were used to calculate the mean and the standard deviation.

The result of the measurements for the lines with the construct pGPTV-gpd1 showed a significantly higher oil content in several (10) transgenic lines (Fig. 1) compared to the measurements of 10 wild-type plants. Similar oil contents are measured for the construct pSUN-USP-gpd1 (not shown).

The average oil content of the above lines is $34.86 \pm 1.56\%$, while the average of the wild-type plants is $27.75 \pm 2.64\%$. This corresponds to an absolute increase in the oil content of 7.1% (relative: 25.6%).

To verify the heritability of the gpd1 effect (increased oil content), T2 seeds from the lines with increased oil contents and from lines with unchanged oil contents were planted. In each case 6 plants per line were planted out and the seeds were analyzed

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for oil content and enzyme activity. The oil content was determined by the methodology described above. The data obtained are shown in Fig. 2. Col-0 and C24 Arabidopsis ecotypes act as controls. C24 is an ecotype which is distinguished by a higher oil content than Col-0. It was possible to characterize lines whose oil contents exceeds that of Col-0. The heritability of the increased oil content as the effect of the expression of the *gdp1* genes was thus demonstrated.

10 Example 8: Determination of glycerol-3-phosphate dehydrogenase activity

A further aim was the demonstration of the direct effect of the enzyme in the transgenic plants, in addition to the increased oil content. To determine the glycerol-3-phosphate dehydrogenase activity, two Arabidopsis seed pods were harvested per plant and extracted by the method of Geigenberger and Stitt ((1993) *Planta* 189:329-339). To this end, the pods were ground in a mortar under liquid nitrogen and taken up in 200 μ l 50 mM HEPES pH 7.4 5 mM $MgCl_2$, 1 mM EDTA, 1mM EGTA, 5mM DTT, 0.1 % (w/w) of bovine serum albumin, 2mM benzamidine, 2mM amino-n-caproic acid, 0.5 mM phenylmethylsulphonyl, 0.1% Triton X-100 and 10% (w/w) glycerol and spun down for 5 minutes, and the supernatant was divided into aliquots. The production of G3P (glycerol-3-phosphate) from the substrates DHAP (dihydroxyacetone phosphate) and NADH was measured to determine the G3PDH activity. To this end, the oxidation of NADH was monitored at 340 nm.

The reaction mixture for the activity determination contained 50 mM HEPES pH 7.4, 4 mM DEAP, 0.2 mM NADH and 10 μ l of the extraction mix in final volume of 100 μ l. After incubation for 30 minutes at room temperature, the reaction was stopped by heating (20 min, 95°C). In the control reaction, the reaction was stopped immediately by heating.

Glycerol-3-phosphate "cycling assay": 10 μ l of the reaction mixture were added to 45 μ l of a solution comprising 200 mM Tricin, $MgCl_2$ 5mM (pH 8.5) and heated (20 min, 95°C) to destroy remaining DHAP. The supernatant was transferred into a 96-well microtiter plate, treated with 45 μ l of a mixture comprising 2 units G3Pox, 130 units catalase, 0.4 unit G3PDH and 0.12 μ mol NADH. The reaction was carried out at 30°C and the resulting absorption monitored at 340 nm in an Anthos htII microplate reader. Reaction rates were calculated on the basis of the

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decrease in absorption in (MOD*min-1) using the Biolise software (gibon Y et al. (2002) Plant J 30(2):221-235).

The enzyme activity in the transgenic lines #11, #21, #41 and #67
5 is significantly higher than in control plants (Fig. 3). The
plants with increased oil contents correlate with plants with
increased enzyme activities. It was thus demonstrated that the
increased oil content can be attributed to the increased
conversion of DHAP into G3P, the precursor of oil synthesis.
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 Gly Tyr Leu Pro Asn Ser Ser Val Asn Pro Arg Tyr Thr Pro Lys Thr
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 Ile Gln Ala Leu Phe Asn Arg Pro Tyr Phe Arg Val Asn Ile Val Glu
 210 215 220
 Asp Val Pro Gly Val Ala Leu Gly Gly Ala Leu Lys Asn Ile Val Ala
 225 230 235 240
 Val Ala Ala Gly Ile Ile Asp Gly Leu Glu Leu Gly Asp Asn Thr Lys
 245 250 255
 Ser Ala Val Met Arg Ile Gly Leu Leu Glu Met Gln Lys Phe Gly Arg
 260 265 270
 Met Phe Phe Asp Cys Lys Pro Leu Thr Met Ser Glu Glu Ser Cys Gly
 275 280 285
 Ile Ala Asp Leu Ile Thr Thr Cys Leu Gly Gly Arg Asn His Lys Cys
 290 295 300
 Ala Val Ala Phe Val Lys Thr Gly Lys Pro Met His Val Val Glu Gln
 305 310 315 320
 Glu Leu Leu Asp Gly Gln Lys Leu Gln Gly Ala Ala Thr Ala Lys Glu
 325 330 335
 Val Tyr Glu Phe Leu Asp Asn Gln Asn Lys Val Ser Glu Phe Pro Leu
 340 345 350
 Phe Thr Ala Val Tyr Arg Ile Val Tyr Glu Gly Leu Pro Pro Asn Lys
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 Leu Leu Glu Ala Ile
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<211> 1155

<212> DNA

<213> Schizosaccharomyces pombe

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<222> (1)..(1152)

<223> coding for G3PDH

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atc cgc ccc aag aaa cgt ttg tca att ggt gta gtt ggc tcc ggt aac 96
Ile Arg Pro Lys Lys Arg Leu Ser Ile Gly Val Val Gly Ser Gly Asn
             20             25             30

tgg ggt act gcc att gcc aag att tgc ggt gaa aat gcc cgt gcc cac 144
Trp Gly Thr Ala Ile Ala Lys Ile Cys Gly Glu Asn Ala Arg Ala His
             35             40             45

ggt cac cat ttc aga ggt aag ggg cgc atg tgg gtc ttt gag gag gag 192
Gly His His Phe Arg Gly Lys Gly Arg Met Trp Val Phe Glu Glu Glu
             50             55             60

att gag tac aag ggt gag aag aga aag ctc acc gaa gta ttc aac gaa 240
Ile Glu Tyr Lys Gly Glu Lys Arg Lys Leu Thr Glu Val Phe Asn Glu
             65             70             75             80

gct cac gag aat gtc aaa tac tta ccc ggc atc gaa tgc cct ccc aac 288
Ala His Glu Asn Val Lys Tyr Leu Pro Gly Ile Glu Cys Pro Pro Asn
             85             90             95

gtt att gcc gtc ccc gat gtt cgt gag gtc gct aga cgt gcc gac atc 336
Val Ile Ala Val Pro Asp Val Arg Glu Val Ala Arg Arg Ala Asp Ile
             100            105            110

ctt gtc ttt gtc gtt cct cat caa ttt att gaa cgc gtt tgg cac caa 384
Leu Val Phe Val Val Pro His Gln Phe Ile Glu Arg Val Trp His Gln
             115            120            125

atg gtc ggt ctc att cgc cct ggt gcc gtt ggt att tcc tgt atc aag 432
Met Val Gly Leu Ile Arg Pro Gly Ala Val Gly Ile Ser Cys Ile Lys
             130            135            140

ggt gtt gct gtc agc aag gaa ggc tgg ctt tac tct gag gtt atc agc 480
Gly Val Ala Val Ser Lys Glu Gly Ser Leu Tyr Ser Glu Val Ile Ser
             145            150            155            160

gag aaa ctc ggt att tac tgt ggt gtt ctt tct ggt gct aac gtt gca 528
Glu Lys Leu Gly Ile Tyr Cys Gly Val Leu Ser Gly Ala Asn Val Ala
             165            170            175

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13

aac gaa gtt gcc cgt gag caa ttc tgt gag act act att ggt ttc aac 576
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 180 185 190
 cct cct aat gaa gtt gat atc cct cgc gag caa atc gcc gcc gtc tct 624
 Pro Pro Asn Glu Val Asp Ile Pro Arg Glu Gln Ile Ala Ala Val Ser
 195 200 205
 gat cgc cct tac ttc tca gtt gtc tcc gtt gac gac gtt gcc ggt gtc 672
 Asp Arg Pro Tyr Phe Ser Val Val Ser Val Asp Asp Val Ala Gly Val
 210 215 220
 gcc ttg ggt ggt gct ttg aag aac gta gtt gcc atg gcc gtt ggt ttc 720
 Ala Leu Gly Gly Ala Leu Lys Asn Val Val Ala Met Ala Val Gly Phe
 225 230 235 240
 gct gat ggt ttg gaa tgg ggc ggt aat acc aag gcc gct att atg cgt 768
 Ala Asp Gly Leu Glu Trp Gly Gly Asn Thr Lys Ala Ala Ile Met Arg
 245 250 255
 cgt ggt ttg ttg gag atg caa aag ttt gct act acc ttc ttc gac tct 816
 Arg Gly Leu Leu Glu Met Gln Lys Phe Ala Thr Thr Phe Phe Asp Ser
 260 265 270
 gat cct cgt acc atg gtt gag caa tct tgc ggt atc gct gac ttg gtc 864
 Asp Pro Arg Thr Met Val Glu Gln Ser Cys Gly Ile Ala Asp Leu Val
 275 280 285
 act tct tgt ttg ggt ggc cgt aac aat cgt tgt gct gaa gca ttt gtc 912
 Thr Ser Cys Leu Gly Gly Arg Asn Asn Arg Cys Ala Glu Ala Phe Val
 290 295 300
 aag act ggt aaa tct tta gag acg ctt gaa aaa gag ctc tta ggt ggt 960
 Lys Thr Gly Lys Ser Leu Glu Thr Leu Glu Lys Glu Leu Leu Gly Gly
 305 310 315 320
 caa ctt ctt caa gga gct gcc act tcc aag gat gtt cat gaa ttc ctt 1008
 Gln Leu Leu Gln Gly Ala Ala Thr Ser Lys Asp Val His Glu Phe Leu
 325 330 335
 ctc acc aag gat atg gtc aag gat ttc ccc ttg ttc act gcc gtt tat 1056
 Leu Thr Lys Asp Met Val Lys Asp Phe Pro Leu Phe Thr Ala Val Tyr
 340 345 350
 aac att tcc tat gaa gac atg gat ccc aag gat ttg atc atc gtc ctt 1104
 Asn Ile Ser Tyr Glu Asp Met Asp Pro Lys Asp Leu Ile Ile Val Leu
 355 360 365
 caa ccc ctt aag gag gac tct gag aac gag ggc ggt act gaa acc gag 1152
 Gln Pro Leu Lys Glu Asp Ser Glu Asn Glu Gly Gly Thr Glu Thr Glu
 370 375 380
 taa 1155
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 <212> PRT
 <213> Schizosaccharomyces pombe

<400> 9

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 35 40 45
 Gly His His Phe Arg Gly Lys Gly Arg Met Trp Val Phe Glu Glu Glu
 50 55 60
 Ile Glu Tyr Lys Gly Glu Lys Arg Lys Leu Thr Glu Val Phe Asn Glu
 65 70 75 80
 Ala His Glu Asn Val Lys Tyr Leu Pro Gly Ile Glu Cys Pro Pro Asn
 85 90 95
 Val Ile Ala Val Pro Asp Val Arg Glu Val Ala Arg Arg Ala Asp Ile
 100 105 110
 Leu Val Phe Val Val Pro His Gln Phe Ile Glu Arg Val Trp His Gln
 115 120 125
 Met Val Gly Leu Ile Arg Pro Gly Ala Val Gly Ile Ser Cys Ile Lys
 130 135 140
 Gly Val Ala Val Ser Lys Glu Gly Ser Leu Tyr Ser Glu Val Ile Ser
 145 150 155 160
 Glu Lys Leu Gly Ile Tyr Cys Gly Val Leu Ser Gly Ala Asn Val Ala
 165 170 175
 Asn Glu Val Ala Arg Glu Gln Phe Cys Glu Thr Thr Ile Gly Phe Asn
 180 185 190
 Pro Pro Asn Glu Val Asp Ile Pro Arg Glu Gln Ile Ala Ala Val Ser
 195 200 205
 Asp Arg Pro Tyr Phe Ser Val Val Ser Val Asp Asp Val Ala Gly Val
 210 215 220
 Ala Leu Gly Gly Ala Leu Lys Asn Val Val Ala Met Ala Val Gly Phe
 225 230 235 240
 Ala Asp Gly Leu Glu Trp Gly Gly Asn Thr Lys Ala Ala Ile Met Arg
 245 250 255
 Arg Gly Leu Leu Glu Met Gln Lys Phe Ala Thr Thr Phe Phe Asp Ser
 260 265 270
 Asp Pro Arg Thr Met Val Glu Gln Ser Cys Gly Ile Ala Asp Leu Val
 275 280 285
 Thr Ser Cys Leu Gly Gly Arg Asn Asn Arg Cys Ala Glu Ala Phe Val
 290 295 300
 Lys Thr Gly Lys Ser Leu Glu Thr Leu Glu Lys Glu Leu Leu Gly Gly
 305 310 315 320
 Gln Leu Leu Gln Gly Ala Ala Thr Ser Lys Asp Val His Glu Phe Leu
 325 330 335

15

Leu Thr Lys Asp Met Val Lys Asp Phe Pro Leu Phe Thr Ala Val Tyr
 340 345 350
 Asn Ile Ser Tyr Glu Asp Met Asp Pro Lys Asp Leu Ile Ile Val Leu
 355 360 365
 Gln Pro Leu Lys Glu Asp Ser Glu Asn Glu Gly Gly Thr Glu Thr Glu
 370 375 380

<210> 10

<211> 1197

<212> DNA

<213> Yarrowia lipolytica

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<222> (1)..(1194)

<223> coding for G3PDH

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<222> (40)..(1194)

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 gtc aac cgt ctc aca caa cag ctt cga ctg ctg acc gcc tcc gcg cct 96
 Val Asn Arg Leu Thr Gln Gln Leu Arg Leu Leu Thr Ala Ser Ala Pro
 20 25 30
 ctc agc gca gcc aac acc gcc ggc aag gct cct ttc aag gtc gcc gtt 144
 Leu Ser Ala Ala Asn Thr Ala Gly Lys Ala Pro Phe Lys Val Ala Val
 35 40 45
 gtt ggt tct ggt aac tgg gga acc acc gtc gcc aag att gtc gcc gag 192
 Val Gly Ser Gly Asn Trp Gly Thr Thr Val Ala Lys Ile Val Ala Glu
 50 55 60
 aac tgc act gct cac ccc gag ctc ttt gag ccc gag gtt cga gtc tgg 240
 Asn Cys Thr Ala His Pro Glu Leu Phe Glu Pro Glu Val Arg Val Trp
 65 70 75 80
 gtt cga gaa gag aag gtc aac ggc aag aac ctg acc gac att ttc aac 288
 Val Arg Glu Glu Lys Val Asn Gly Lys Asn Leu Thr Asp Ile Phe Asn
 85 90 95
 gct gag cac gag aac gtg cga tac ctc cct aaa atc aaa ctt cct cac 336
 Ala Glu His Glu Asn Val Arg Tyr Leu Pro Lys Ile Lys Leu Pro His
 100 105 110
 aac ctg atc gcc gag ccg gat ctg ctc aag gcc gtc gag ggt gcc aac 384
 Asn Leu Ile Ala Glu Pro Asp Leu Leu Lys Ala Val Glu Gly Ala Asn
 115 120 125

16

atc atc gtc ttc aac ctg ccc cat cag ttc ctg gct ggt gtc tgc aag	432
Ile Ile Val Phe Asn Leu Pro His Gln Phe Leu Ala Gly Val Cys Lys	
130 135 140	
cag ctc aag ggc cac gtc aac ccc aag gct aga gcc atc tcc tgc ctc	480
Gln Leu Lys Gly His Val Asn Pro Lys Ala Arg Ala Ile Ser Cys Leu	
145 150 155 160	
aag ggt cta gat gtc acc ccc cag ggt gtt tac ctg ctc tcc gac gtt	528
Lys Gly Leu Asp Val Thr Pro Gln Gly Val Tyr Leu Leu Ser Asp Val	
165 170 175	
atc gag aac gag acc ggt ctc cac tgc ggt gtt ctg tcc ggg gct aac	576
Ile Glu Asn Glu Thr Gly Leu His Cys Gly Val Leu Ser Gly Ala Asn	
180 185 190	
ctc gcc acc gag atc gct ctg gag aag tac tcc gag act acc gtt gct	624
Leu Ala Thr Glu Ile Ala Leu Glu Lys Tyr Ser Glu Thr Thr Val Ala	
195 200 205	
tac aac cga ccc aag gac ttc ttt ggc gag ggt gat gtg acc aac gat	672
Tyr Asn Arg Pro Lys Asp Phe Phe Gly Glu Gly Asp Val Thr Asn Asp	
210 215 220	
gtg ctc aag gct ctg ttc cac cga ccc tac ttc cat gtg cga tgc gtt	720
Val Leu Lys Ala Leu Phe His Arg Pro Tyr Phe His Val Arg Cys Val	
225 230 235 240	
cag gac gtc gcc ggt gtc tcc atc gga ggt gcc ctt aag aac gtt gtt	768
Gln Asp Val Ala Gly Val Ser Ile Gly Gly Ala Leu Lys Asn Val Val	
245 250 255	
gcc ctt tgc gcc ggt ttc gtc gag ggc aag aac tgg gga gac aac gcc	816
Ala Leu Cys Ala Gly Phe Val Glu Gly Lys Asn Trp Gly Asp Asn Ala	
260 265 270	
aag gcc gca att atg cga cga ggc atg ctt gag atg atc aac ttc tcc	864
Lys Ala Ala Ile Met Arg Arg Gly Met Leu Glu Met Ile Asn Phe Ser	
275 280 285	
aag cga ttc ttc ccc gaa act gat att aac act ctt aca gtc gag tct	912
Lys Arg Phe Phe Pro Glu Thr Asp Ile Asn Thr Leu Thr Val Glu Ser	
290 295 300	
gcc ggt gtg gcc gat ctc atc acc tcg tgc gct gga ggc cga aac ttc	960
Ala Gly Val Ala Asp Leu Ile Thr Ser Cys Ala Gly Gly Arg Asn Phe	
305 310 315 320	
aag gtc ggc cga gca ttc gga aag gag agc ggc tcc ggc aag acc atc	1008
Lys Val Gly Arg Ala Phe Gly Lys Glu Ser Gly Ser Gly Lys Thr Ile	
325 330 335	
cag gac gtg gag aag gag ctt ctc aac ggc cag tcc gcc cag ggc gtc	1056
Gln Asp Val Glu Lys Glu Leu Leu Asn Gly Gln Ser Ala Gln Gly Val	
340 345 350	
atc aca tgt aac gag gtc cac gag ctg ctc aag aac aag aac atg cag	1104
Ile Thr Cys Asn Glu Val His Glu Leu Leu Lys Asn Lys Asn Met Gln	
355 360 365	

aag gac ttc cct ctg ttc gag tcc acc tgg ggc att atc cac ggt gag 1152
 Lys Asp Phe Pro Leu Phe Glu Ser Thr Trp Gly Ile Ile His Gly Glu
 370 375 380

ctc aag att gat gat ctc ccc gag att ctt tac cac gcc aac tag 1197
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 385 390 395

<210> 11

<211> 398

<212> PRT

<213> *Yarrowia lipolytica*

<400> 11

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 20 25 30
 Leu Ser Ala Ala Asn Thr Ala Gly Lys Ala Pro Phe Lys Val Ala Val
 35 40 45
 Val Gly Ser Gly Asn Trp Gly Thr Thr Val Ala Lys Ile Val Ala Glu
 50 55 60
 Asn Cys Thr Ala His Pro Glu Leu Phe Glu Pro Glu Val Arg Val Trp
 65 70 75 80
 Val Arg Glu Glu Lys Val Asn Gly Lys Asn Leu Thr Asp Ile Phe Asn
 85 90 95
 Ala Glu His Glu Asn Val Arg Tyr Leu Pro Lys Ile Lys Leu Pro His
 100 105 110
 Asn Leu Ile Ala Glu Pro Asp Leu Leu Lys Ala Val Glu Gly Ala Asn
 115 120 125
 Ile Ile Val Phe Asn Leu Pro His Gln Phe Leu Ala Gly Val Cys Lys
 130 135 140
 Gln Leu Lys Gly His Val Asn Pro Lys Ala Arg Ala Ile Ser Cys Leu
 145 150 155 160
 Lys Gly Leu Asp Val Thr Pro Gln Gly Val Tyr Leu Leu Ser Asp Val
 165 170 175
 Ile Glu Asn Glu Thr Gly Leu His Cys Gly Val Leu Ser Gly Ala Asn
 180 185 190
 Leu Ala Thr Glu Ile Ala Leu Glu Lys Tyr Ser Glu Thr Thr Val Ala
 195 200 205
 Tyr Asn Arg Pro Lys Asp Phe Phe Gly Glu Gly Asp Val Thr Asn Asp
 210 215 220
 Val Leu Lys Ala Leu Phe His Arg Pro Tyr Phe His Val Arg Cys Val
 225 230 235 240
 Gln Asp Val Ala Gly Val Ser Ile Gly Gly Ala Leu Lys Asn Val Val
 245 250 255
 Ala Leu Cys Ala Gly Phe Val Glu Gly Lys Asn Trp Gly Asp Asn Ala
 260 265 270
 Lys Ala Ala Ile Met Arg Arg Gly Met Leu Glu Met Ile Asn Phe Ser

275	280	285
Lys Arg Phe Phe Pro Glu Thr Asp Ile Asn Thr Leu Thr Val Glu Ser		
290	295	300
Ala Gly Val Ala Asp Leu Ile Thr Ser Cys Ala Gly Gly Arg Asn Phe		
305	310	315
Lys Val Gly Arg Ala Phe Gly Lys Glu Ser Gly Ser Gly Lys Thr Ile		
	325	330
Gln Asp Val Glu Lys Glu Leu Leu Asn Gly Gln Ser Ala Gln Gly Val		
	340	345
Ile Thr Cys Asn Glu Val His Glu Leu Leu Lys Asn Lys Asn Met Gln		
	355	360
Lys Asp Phe Pro Leu Phe Glu Ser Thr Trp Gly Ile Ile His Gly Glu		
	370	375
Leu Lys Ile Asp Asp Leu Pro Glu Ile Leu Tyr His Ala Asn		
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<210> 12

<211> 385

<212> PRT

<213> Yarrowia lipolytica

<400> 12

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Val Ala Val Val Gly Ser Gly Asn Trp Gly Thr Thr Val Ala Lys Ile		
	35	40
Val Ala Glu Asn Cys Thr Ala His Pro Glu Leu Phe Glu Pro Glu Val		
	50	55
Arg Val Trp Val Arg Glu Glu Lys Val Asn Gly Lys Asn Leu Thr Asp		
	65	70
Ile Phe Asn Ala Glu His Glu Asn Val Arg Tyr Leu Pro Lys Ile Lys		
	85	90
Leu Pro His Asn Leu Ile Ala Glu Pro Asp Leu Leu Lys Ala Val Glu		
	100	105
Gly Ala Asn Ile Ile Val Phe Asn Leu Pro His Gln Phe Leu Ala Gly		
	115	120
Val Cys Lys Gln Leu Lys Gly His Val Asn Pro Lys Ala Arg Ala Ile		
	130	135
Ser Cys Leu Lys Gly Leu Asp Val Thr Pro Gln Gly Val Tyr Leu Leu		
	145	150
Ser Asp Val Ile Glu Asn Glu Thr Gly Leu His Cys Gly Val Leu Ser		
	165	170
Gly Ala Asn Leu Ala Thr Glu Ile Ala Leu Glu Lys Tyr Ser Glu Thr		
	180	185
Thr Val Ala Tyr Asn Arg Pro Lys Asp Phe Phe Gly Glu Gly Asp Val		
	195	200
		205

Thr Asn Asp Val Leu Lys Ala Leu Phe His Arg Pro Tyr Phe His Val
 210 215 220
 Arg Cys Val Gln Asp Val Ala Gly Val Ser Ile Gly Gly Ala Leu Lys
 225 230 235 240
 Asn Val Val Ala Leu Cys Ala Gly Phe Val Glu Gly Lys Asn Trp Gly
 245 250 255
 Asp Asn Ala Lys Ala Ala Ile Met Arg Arg Gly Met Leu Glu Met Ile
 260 265 270
 Asn Phe Ser Lys Arg Phe Phe Pro Glu Thr Asp Ile Asn Thr Leu Thr
 275 280 285
 Val Glu Ser Ala Gly Val Ala Asp Leu Ile Thr Ser Cys Ala Gly Gly
 290 295 300
 Arg Asn Phe Lys Val Gly Arg Ala Phe Gly Lys Glu Ser Gly Ser Gly
 305 310 315 320
 Lys Thr Ile Gln Asp Val Glu Lys Glu Leu Leu Asn Gly Gln Ser Ala
 325 330 335
 Gln Gly Val Ile Thr Cys Asn Glu Val His Glu Leu Leu Lys Asn Lys
 340 345 350
 Asn Met Gln Lys Asp Phe Pro Leu Phe Glu Ser Thr Trp Gly Ile Ile
 355 360 365
 His Gly Glu Leu Lys Ile Asp Asp Leu Pro Glu Ile Leu Tyr His Ala
 370 375 380
 Asn
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 tct atg aag aag acc gac tca tca atg tca gtc gtt acc gct gag aat 96
 Ser Met Lys Lys Thr Asp Ser Ser Met Ser Val Val Thr Ala Glu Asn
 20 25 30
 cca tac aaa gtt tcc gtc gtc ggc tct ggt aac tgg ggt acc acc atc 144
 Pro Tyr Lys Val Ser Val Val Gly Ser Gly Asn Trp Gly Thr Thr Ile
 35 40 45
 gcc aag gtc gtt gcc gaa aac acc aag gaa aag cca gaa ttg ttc caa 192
 Ala Lys Val Val Ala Glu Asn Thr Lys Glu Lys Pro Glu Leu Phe Gln
 50 55 60

20

gaa cgt gtg gac atg tgg gtg ttt gaa gaa cag atc gac ggt act cca	240
Glu Arg Val Asp Met Trp Val Phe Glu Glu Gln Ile Asp Gly Thr Pro	
65 70 75 80	
ttg gcc caa atc atc aac acc aag cac cag aac gtg aaa tac ttg cca	288
Leu Ala Gln Ile Ile Asn Thr Lys His Gln Asn Val Lys Tyr Leu Pro	
85 90 95	
aac atc gac ctt ccg gac aat ttg gtc gct aac cca gac ttg att gcc	336
Asn Ile Asp Leu Pro Asp Asn Leu Val Ala Asn Pro Asp Leu Ile Ala	
100 105 110	
acc acg aag gac gcc gat gtg att gtt ttc aac gtt ccc cat caa ttt	384
Thr Thr Lys Asp Ala Asp Val Ile Val Phe Asn Val Pro His Gln Phe	
115 120 125	
ttg gcc cgt atc gtt gct caa atg aag ggt caa atc aaa cca act gca	432
Leu Gly Arg Ile Val Ala Gln Met Lys Gly Gln Ile Lys Pro Thr Ala	
130 135 140	
cgt gcg gtc tcc tgt cta aag ggt ttc gaa gtt ggt cca aag ggt gtg	480
Arg Ala Val Ser Cys Leu Lys Gly Phe Glu Val Gly Pro Lys Gly Val	
145 150 155 160	
cag ctt cta tct gac tac gtc act caa gaa ttg ggt atc gaa tgt ggt	528
Gln Leu Leu Ser Asp Tyr Val Thr Gln Glu Leu Gly Ile Glu Cys Gly	
165 170 175	
gct cta tct ggt gct aac ttg gcc cca gaa gtc gcc aag gaa cac tgg	576
Ala Leu Ser Gly Ala Asn Leu Ala Pro Glu Val Ala Lys Glu His Trp	
180 185 190	
tcc gag acc acc gtc gct tac cac atc cca gac gac ttc aag ggt gac	624
Ser Glu Thr Thr Val Ala Tyr His Ile Pro Asp Asp Phe Lys Gly Asp	
195 200 205	
ggt aag gac atc gac cac cgt gtc ttg aag cag ttg ttc cac aga cca	672
Gly Lys Asp Ile Asp His Arg Val Leu Lys Gln Leu Phe His Arg Pro	
210 215 220	
tac ttc cac gtg aat gtg att gac gat gtt gct ggt atc tcc atc gca	720
Tyr Phe His Val Asn Val Ile Asp Asp Val Ala Gly Ile Ser Ile Ala	
225 230 235 240	
ggt gca ttg aag aac gtg gtc gcc ttg ggt tgc ggt ttc gtt acc ggt	768
Gly Ala Leu Lys Asn Val Val Ala Leu Gly Cys Gly Phe Val Thr Gly	
245 250 255	
cta ggt tgg ggt aac aac gcc gcc gcc gcc atc caa cgt gtc ggt ttg	816
Leu Gly Trp Gly Asn Asn Ala Ala Ala Ala Ile Gln Arg Val Gly Leu	
260 265 270	
ggt gaa atc atc aag ttc ggt agg atg ttc ttc cca gaa tcc aag gtg	864
Gly Glu Ile Ile Lys Phe Gly Arg Met Phe Phe Pro Glu Ser Lys Val	
275 280 285	
gag act tac tac caa gaa tcc gca ggt gtt gct gac ttg atc acc acc	912
Glu Thr Tyr Tyr Gln Glu Ser Ala Gly Val Ala Asp Leu Ile Thr Thr	
290 295 300	

21

tgt tcc ggt ggt aga aac gtc cgt gtt gcc acc gaa atg gcc aag act 960
 Cys Ser Gly Gly Arg Asn Val Arg Val Ala Thr Glu Met Ala Lys Thr
 305 310 315 320
 ggt aag agc ggt gag caa gtc gaa aaa gac atc ttg aac ggt caa tcc 1008
 Gly Lys Ser Gly Glu Gln Val Glu Lys Asp Ile Leu Asn Gly Gln Ser
 325 330 335
 gct caa ggt ttg gtc acc tgt aag gaa gtt cac cag tgg tta gaa tct 1056
 Ala Gln Gly Leu Val Thr Cys Lys Glu Val His Gln Trp Leu Glu Ser
 340 345 350
 agt gga aac acc gaa gac ttc cca ttg ttc gag gct gtc tac cag atc 1104
 Ser Gly Asn Thr Glu Asp Phe Pro Leu Phe Glu Ala Val Tyr Gln Ile
 355 360 365
 act tac gaa aac gtg ccc atg aag gag ttg cca tct atg atc gaa gaa 1152
 Thr Tyr Glu Asn Val Pro Met Lys Glu Leu Pro Ser Met Ile Glu Glu
 370 375 380
 ttg gat atc gat agc aca tcg aag tgc gta ttg agt tac aag atg ggt 1200
 Leu Asp Ile Asp Ser Thr Ser Lys Cys Val Leu Ser Tyr Lys Met Gly
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 ctc tag
 Leu 1206
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 20 25 30
 Pro Tyr Lys Val Ser Val Val Gly Ser Gly Asn Trp Gly Thr Thr Ile
 35 40 45
 Ala Lys Val Val Ala Glu Asn Thr Lys Glu Lys Pro Glu Leu Phe Gln
 50 55 60
 Glu Arg Val Asp Met Trp Val Phe Glu Glu Gln Ile Asp Gly Thr Pro
 65 70 75 80
 Leu Ala Gln Ile Ile Asn Thr Lys His Gln Asn Val Lys Tyr Leu Pro
 85 90 95
 Asn Ile Asp Leu Pro Asp Asn Leu Val Ala Asn Pro Asp Leu Ile Ala
 100 105 110
 Thr Thr Lys Asp Ala Asp Val Ile Val Phe Asn Val Pro His Gln Phe
 115 120 125
 Leu Gly Arg Ile Val Ala Gln Met Lys Gly Gln Ile Lys Pro Thr Ala
 130 135 140

22

Arg Ala Val Ser Cys Leu Lys Gly Phe Glu Val Gly Pro Lys Gly Val
 145 150 155 160
 Gln Leu Leu Ser Asp Tyr Val Thr Gln Glu Leu Gly Ile Glu Cys Gly
 165 170 175
 Ala Leu Ser Gly Ala Asn Leu Ala Pro Glu Val Ala Lys Glu His Trp
 180 185 190
 Ser Glu Thr Thr Val Ala Tyr His Ile Pro Asp Asp Phe Lys Gly Asp
 195 200 205
 Gly Lys Asp Ile Asp His Arg Val Leu Lys Gln Leu Phe His Arg Pro
 210 215 220
 Tyr Phe His Val Asn Val Ile Asp Asp Val Ala Gly Ile Ser Ile Ala
 225 230 235 240
 Gly Ala Leu Lys Asn Val Val Ala Leu Gly Cys Gly Phe Val Thr Gly
 245 250 255
 Leu Gly Trp Gly Asn Asn Ala Ala Ala Ile Gln Arg Val Gly Leu
 260 265 270
 Gly Glu Ile Ile Lys Phe Gly Arg Met Phe Phe Pro Glu Ser Lys Val
 275 280 285
 Glu Thr Tyr Tyr Gln Glu Ser Ala Gly Val Ala Asp Leu Ile Thr Thr
 290 295 300
 Cys Ser Gly Gly Arg Asn Val Arg Val Ala Thr Glu Met Ala Lys Thr
 305 310 315 320
 Gly Lys Ser Gly Glu Gln Val Glu Lys Asp Ile Leu Asn Gly Gln Ser
 325 330 335
 Ala Gln Gly Leu Val Thr Cys Lys Glu Val His Gln Trp Leu Glu Ser
 340 345 350
 Ser Gly Asn Thr Glu Asp Phe Pro Leu Phe Glu Ala Val Tyr Gln Ile
 355 360 365
 Thr Tyr Glu Asn Val Pro Met Lys Glu Leu Pro Ser Met Ile Glu Glu
 370 375 380
 Leu Asp Ile Asp Ser Thr Ser Lys Cys Val Leu Ser Tyr Lys Met Gly
 385 390 395 400
 Leu

<210> 15

<211> 1170

<212> DNA

<213> *Zygosaccharomyces rouxii*

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<222> (1)..(1167)

<223> coding for G3PDH

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 Pro Tyr Lys Val Ala Val Val Gly Ser Gly Asn Trp Gly Thr Thr Ile
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 gct aag gtt gtt gcc gaa aac acc aaa gaa aag cca gag ttg ttc caa 192
 Ala Lys Val Val Ala Glu Asn Thr Lys Glu Lys Pro Glu Leu Phe Gln
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 Gly Arg Val Asp Met Trp Val Phe Glu Glu Gln Ile Asp Gly Thr Pro
 65 70 75 80
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 Asn Ile Asp Leu Pro Gly Asn Leu Val Ala Asn Pro Asp Leu Ile Ser
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 Leu Gly Arg Ile Val Ser Gln Met Lys Gly Gln Ile Lys Pro Asp Ala
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 Arg Ala Ile Ser Cys Leu Lys Gly Phe Glu Val Gly Pro Lys Gly Val
 145 150 155 160
 caa cta ctt tct gac tac gtc act caa gaa tta ggt atc caa tgt ggt 528
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 Gly Lys Asp Ile Asp His Arg Val Leu Lys Gln Leu Phe His Arg Pro
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24

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25

Ala Lys Val Val Ala Glu Asn Thr Lys Glu Lys Pro Glu Leu Phe Gln
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 Ser Glu Thr Thr Val Ala Tyr Gln Val Pro Asp Asp Phe Lys Gly Glu
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 225 230 235 240
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<223> coding for G3PDH

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<223> Description of the artificial sequence: Yeast G3PDH
sequence motive

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<223> Val

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<222> (3)
<223> Ile

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<222> (7)
<223> Ile or Val

<220>
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<222> (12)
<223> Leu or Ile

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<223> Description of the artificial sequence: Yeast G3PDH
sequence motive

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<222> (1)
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<221> VARIANT

<222> (2)

<223> Val

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<223> Ile

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<212> PRT

<213> Artificial sequence

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<223> Description of the artificial sequence: Yeast G3PDH
sequence motive

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<223> Ala

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<222> (9)

<223> Ile or Val

<220>

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<222> (13)

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<400> 26

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<212> PRT

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<223> Description of the artificial sequence: Yeast G3PDH
sequence motive

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sequence motive

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<223> Description of the artificial sequence: Yeast G3PDH
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<223> Description of the artificial sequence: Yeast G3PDH
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 Gly Ser Gly Asn Trp Gly Thr Ala Ile Ala Lys Ile Val Ala Glu Asn
 20 25 30
 act gcc agc aac cct gcg gtc ttt gag aag gat gtt cag atg tgg gtt 144
 Thr Ala Ser Asn Pro Ala Val Phe Glu Lys Asp Val Gln Met Trp Val
 35 40 45
 ttc gag gaa aag gtc gag att ccg aaa tcg tcg aag cat tat gat cct 192
 Phe Glu Glu Lys Val Glu Ile Pro Lys Ser Ser Lys His Tyr Asp Pro
 50 55 60
 gcc tct tct ctt tgc cag ggc ccg cag aat ctg aca gat att atc aac 240
 Ala Ser Ser Leu Cys Gln Gly Pro Gln Asn Leu Thr Asp Ile Ile Asn
 65 70 75 80
 cat acc cat gag aat atc aag tac ctc ccc gga att acc ctt ccg gaa 288
 His Thr His Glu Asn Ile Lys Tyr Leu Pro Gly Ile Thr Leu Pro Glu
 85 90 95

42

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Ile Leu Val Phe Asn Leu Pro His Gln Phe Ile Ile Asn Ile Cys Glu	
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cag atc aag ggc aag att gtc cca tac gcg cgt gga att tct tgc ata	432
Gln Ile Lys Gly Lys Ile Val Pro Tyr Ala Arg Gly Ile Ser Cys Ile	
130 135 140	
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Lys Gly Val Asp Val Asn Glu Glu Gly Val His Leu Phe Ser Glu Thr	
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Phe Pro Pro Ile Asp His Ala Leu Leu Lys Ser Leu Phe His Arg Pro	
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Tyr Phe His Ile Gly Val Val Ser Asp Val Ala Gly Val Ser Leu Gly	
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Gly Ala Leu Lys Asn Val Val Ala Val Ala Ala Gly Trp Val Val Gly	
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aaa gga tgg gga gac aat gcg aag gct gca att atg cga gtt ggg ctt	912
Lys Gly Trp Gly Asp Asn Ala Lys Ala Ala Ile Met Arg Val Gly Leu	
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43

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 355 360 365
 aag ctg caa ggc act ttg act gca gtc gaa gtc aac agt ttc ttg aaa 1152
 Lys Leu Gln Gly Thr Leu Thr Ala Val Glu Val Asn Ser Phe Leu Lys
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 aag caa ggt tta gaa gaa gag ttc cca ttg ttt act gca gtc tac cga 1200
 Lys Gln Gly Leu Glu Glu Glu Phe Pro Leu Phe Thr Ala Val Tyr Arg
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 Ala Ser Ser Leu Cys Gln Gly Pro Gln Asn Leu Thr Asp Ile Ile Asn
 65 70 75 80
 His Thr His Glu Asn Ile Lys Tyr Leu Pro Gly Ile Thr Leu Pro Glu
 85 90 95
 Asn Leu Ile Ala Asn Pro Ser Leu Val Asp Ala Val Gln Asp Ser Thr
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 Ile Leu Val Phe Asn Leu Pro His Gln Phe Ile Ile Asn Ile Cys Glu
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 Gln Ile Lys Gly Lys Ile Val Pro Tyr Ala Arg Gly Ile Ser Cys Ile
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 Lys Gly Val Asp Val Asn Glu Glu Gly Val His Leu Phe Ser Glu Thr
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 Tyr Phe His Ile Gly Val Val Ser Asp Val Ala Gly Val Ser Leu Gly
 260 265 270
 Gly Ala Leu Lys Asn Val Val Ala Val Ala Ala Gly Trp Val Val Gly
 275 280 285
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 Arg Asn Gln Pro Ile Glu Lys Ile Glu Glu Thr Glu Leu Asn Gly Gln
 355 360 365
 Lys Leu Gln Gly Thr Leu Thr Ala Val Glu Val Asn Ser Phe Leu Lys
 370 375 380
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aaa cac gaa aac gtt aag tac ttg cca gaa gtc aag ttg ccg gaa aac 192
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ttg gtt ggc cat gtc aag cca tct gcc aga gcc atc tcc tgt ttg aag 336
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 Gly Leu Glu Val Gly Pro Glu Gly Cys Lys Leu Leu Ser Gln Ser Ile
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gcc aac gaa gtt gcc aga gaa aga tgg tct gaa acc acc att gcc tac 480
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aac att cca gaa gat ttc aga ggt aag ggt aga gat atc gac gaa tac 528
 Asn Ile Pro Glu Asp Phe Arg Gly Lys Gly Arg Asp Ile Asp Glu Tyr
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gtc tta aag caa tta ttc cac aga acc tac ttc cat gtc aga gtc atc 576
 Val Leu Lys Gln Leu Phe His Arg Thr Tyr Phe His Val Arg Val Ile
 180 185 190

aac gac atc ata ggt gct tct ttc gct ggt gct ttg aag aat gtt gtt 624
 Asn Asp Ile Ile Gly Ala Ser Phe Ala Gly Ala Leu Lys Asn Val Val
 195 200 205

gcc tgt gct gtt ggt ttc gtt atc ggt gcc ggc tgg ggt gac aac gct 672
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tct tac tac caa aag ttc ggt gtc aag ggt cca gct cca gaa tcc act 768
Ser Tyr Tyr Gln Lys Phe Gly Val Lys Gly Pro Ala Pro Glu Ser Thr
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act ttc act gag gaa tct gcc ggt gtc gct gac tta atc acc act tgt 816
Thr Phe Thr Glu Glu Ser Ala Gly Val Ala Asp Leu Ile Thr Thr Cys
                260                265                270

tcc ggt ggt aga aat gtc aag gtt gct aga tac atg att gaa aac aac 864
Ser Gly Gly Arg Asn Val Lys Val Ala Arg Tyr Met Ile Glu Asn Asn
                275                280                285

gtt gac gct tgg gaa gcc gaa aag att gtc tta aag ggt caa tct tct 912
Val Asp Ala Trp Glu Ala Glu Lys Ile Val Leu Lys Gly Gln Ser Ser
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caa ggt atc tta act gcc aag gaa gtc cac gaa ttg tta act aac tac 960
Gln Gly Ile Leu Thr Ala Lys Glu Val His Glu Leu Leu Thr Asn Tyr
305                310                315                320

aac tta tcg aat gaa ttc cca tta ttt gaa gcc gta tac 999
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Phe Glu Glu Glu Val Asp Gly Gln Lys Leu Thr Glu Ile Ile Asn Ala
 35                40                45

Lys His Glu Asn Val Lys Tyr Leu Pro Glu Val Lys Leu Pro Glu Asn
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Leu Val Ala Asn Pro Asp Val Val Asp Thr Val Lys Asp Ala Asp Leu
 65                70                75                80

Leu Ile Phe Asn Ile Pro His Gln Phe Leu Pro Arg Val Cys Lys Gln
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Leu Val Gly His Val Lys Pro Ser Ala Arg Ala Ile Ser Cys Leu Lys
 100                105                110

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Asn Asp Thr Leu Gly Val His Cys Gly Val Leu Ser Gly Ala Asn Ile
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Asn Asp Ile Ile Gly Ala Ser Phe Ala Gly Ala Leu Lys Asn Val Val
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Thr Phe Thr Glu Glu Ser Ala Gly Val Ala Asp Leu Ile Thr Thr Cys
260 265 270
Ser Gly Gly Arg Asn Val Lys Val Ala Arg Tyr Met Ile Glu Asn Asn
275 280 285
Val Asp Ala Trp Glu Ala Glu Lys Ile Val Leu Lys Gly Gln Ser Ser
290 295 300
Gln Gly Ile Leu Thr Ala Lys Glu Val His Glu Leu Leu Thr Asn Tyr
305 310 315 320
Asn Leu Ser Asn Glu Phe Pro Leu Phe Glu Ala Val
325 330

We claim:

1. A method of increasing the total oil content in a plant
5 organism or a tissue, organ, part, cell or propagation
material thereof, comprising
 - a) the transgenic expression of yeast glycerol-3-phosphate
dehydrogenase in said plant organism or in a tissue,
10 organ, part, cell or propagation material thereof, and
 - b) the selection of plant organisms in which - in contrast
to or comparison with the starting organism - the total
oil content in said plant organism or in a tissue, organ,
15 part, cell or propagation material thereof is increased.
2. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the
glycerol-3-phosphate dehydrogenase is derived from a yeast
selected from the genera *Cryptococcus*, *Torulopsis*,
20 *Pityrosporum*, *Brettanomyces*, *Candida*, *Kloeckera*, *Trigonopsis*,
Trichosporon, *Rhodotorul*, *Sporobolomyces*, *Bullera*,
Saccharomyces, *Debaromyces*, *Lipomyces*, *Hansenula*,
Endomycopsis, *Pichia* and *Hanseniaspora*.
- 25 3. A method as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein the
glycerol-3-phosphate dehydrogenase is derived from a yeast
selected from the species *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, *Pichia*
pastoris, *Hansenula polymorpha*, *Schizosaccharomyces pombe*,
Kluyveromyces lactis, *Zygosaccharomyces rouxii*, *Yarrowia*
30 *lipolitica*, *Emericella nidulans*, *Aspergillus nidulans*,
Debaryomyces hansenii and *Torulaspora hansenii*.
4. A method as claimed in any of claims 1 to 3, wherein the
glycerol-3-phosphate dehydrogenase brings about the
35 conversion of dihydroxyacetone phosphate to
glycerol-3-phosphate using NADH as cosubstrate and has a
peptide sequence encompassing at least one sequence motif
selected from the group of sequence motifs consisting of
 - 40 i) GSGNWGT(A/T)IAK
 - ii) CG(V/A)LSGAN(L/I/V)AXE(V/I)A
 - iii) (L/V)FXRPYFXV
5. A method as claimed in any of claims 1 to 4, wherein the
45 glycerol-3-phosphate dehydrogenase brings about the
conversion of dihydroxyacetone phosphate to
glycerol-3-phosphate using NADH as cosubstrate and has a

peptide sequence encompassing at least one sequence motif selected from the group of sequence motifs consisting of

- iv) GSGNWGTTIAKV(V/I)AEN
- 5 v) NT(K/R)HQNVKYL
- vi) D(I/V)LVFN(I/V)PHQFL
- vii) RA(I/V)SCLKGFE
- viii) CGALSGANLA(P/T)EVA
- ix) LFHRPYFHV
- 10 x) GLGEII(K/R)FG

6. A method as claimed in claim 4 or 5, wherein the glycerol-3-phosphate dehydrogenase additionally encompasses at least one sequence motif selected from the group of sequence motifs consisting of

- xi) H(E/Q)NVKYL
- xii) (D/N)(I/V)(L/I)V(F/W)(V/N)(L/I/V)PHQF(V/L/I)
- xiii) (A/G)(I/V)SC(L/I)KG
- 20 xiv) G(L/M)(L/G)E(M/I)(I/Q)(R/K/N)F(G/S/A)

7. A method as claimed in any of claims 1 to 6, wherein the yeast glycerol-3-phosphate dehydrogenase is described by

- 25 a) a sequence with the SEQ ID NO: 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, 11, 12, 14, 16, 38 or 40, or
- b) a functional equivalent of a) with an identity of at least 60% of a sequence with SEQ ID NO: 2.

8. A method as claimed in any of claims 1 to 7, wherein the plant is an oil crop.

9. A method as claimed in any of claims 1 to 8, wherein the total oil content in the seed of a plant is increased.

10. A transgenic expression cassette comprising, under the control of a promoter which is functional in a plant organism or a tissue, organ, part or cell thereof, a nucleic acid sequence encoding a yeast glycerol-3-phosphate dehydrogenase as defined in any of claims 2 to 7.

11. A transgenic expression cassette as claimed in claim 10,
wherein the nucleic acid sequence encoding a
glycerol-3-phosphate dehydrogenase is described by
- 5 a) a sequence with the SEQ ID NO: 1, 3, 6, 8, 10, 13, 15, 37
or 39 or
- b) a sequence derived from a sequence with the SEQ ID NO: 1,
3, 6, 8, 10, 13, 15, 37 or 39 in accordance with the
10 degeneracy of the genetic code
- c) a sequence which has at least 60% identity with the
sequence with the SEQ ID NO: 1.
- 15 12. A transgenic expression cassette as claimed in claim 10 or
11, wherein the promoter is a seed-specific promotor.
13. A transgenic vector comprising an expression cassette as
claimed in any of claims 10 to 12.
- 20 14. A transgenic plant organism or tissue, organ, part, cell or
propagation material thereof, comprising a yeast
glycerol-3-phosphate dehydrogenase as defined in any of
claims 2 to 7 or an expression cassette as claimed in any of
25 claims 10 to 12 or a vector as claimed in claim 13.
15. A transgenic plant organism as claimed in claim 14, wherein
the plant organism is selected from the group of the oil
crops consisting of *Borvago officinalis*, *Brassica campestris*,
30 *Brassica napus*, *Brassica rapa*, *Cannabis sativa*, *Carthamus*
tinctorius, *Cocos nucifera*, *Crambe abyssinica*, *Cuphea*
species, *Elaeis guinensis*, *Elaeis oleifera*, *Glycine max*,
Gossypium hirsutum, *Gossypium barbadense*, *Gossypium*
herbaceum, *Helianthus annuus*, *Linum usitatissimum*, *Oenothera*
35 *biennis*, *Olea europaea*, *Oryza sativa*, *Ricinus communis*,
Sesamum indicum, *Triticum species*, *Zea mays*, walnut and
almond.
16. The use of a transgenic plant organism or tissue, organ,
40 part, cell or propagation material thereof as claimed in
claim 14 or 15 for the production of oils, fats, free fatty
acids or derivatives of the above.

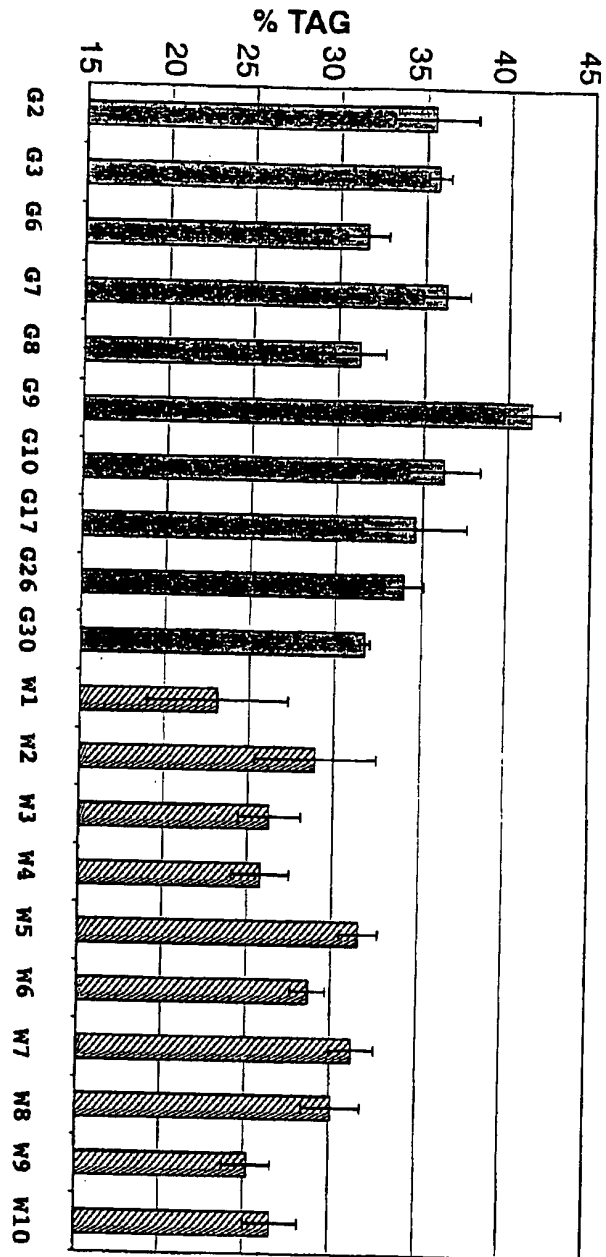


Fig. 1

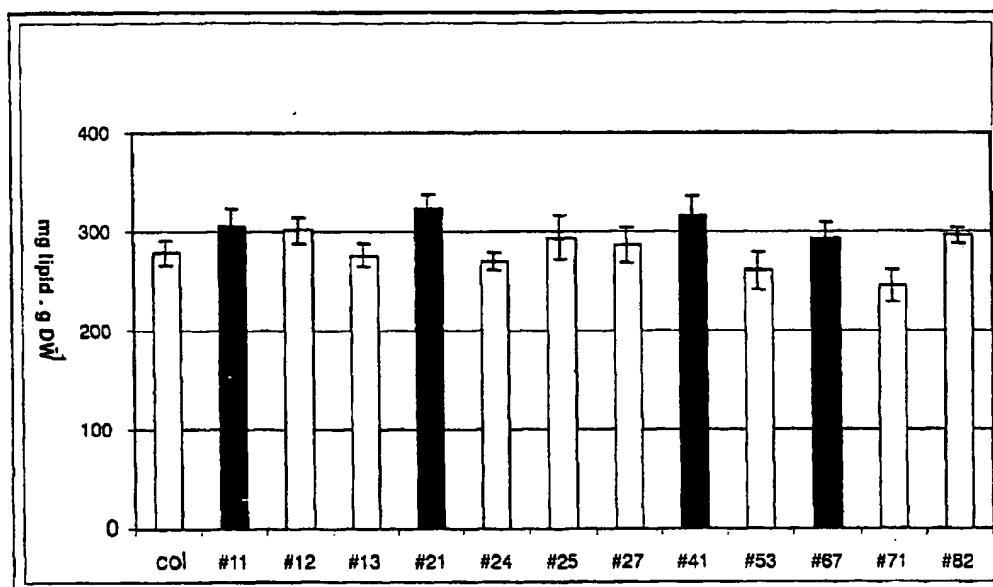


Fig. 2

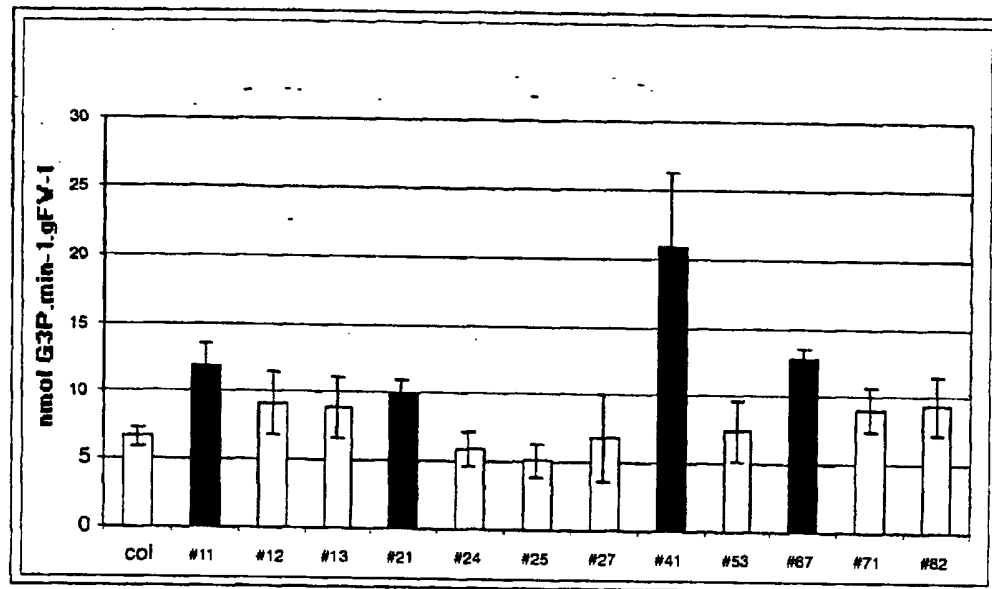


Fig. 3